

# SIGHTINGS

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"Sightings" appears monthly, alternating between *Winging It* and *Birding*, with the latest news, reports, and rumors from the ABA Area, Mexico, and Hawaii. 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/nab>. Italicized place names denote counties or parishes.

compiled by MICHAEL L. P. RETTER  
with special thanks to P. LEHMAN, R. PAYNE,  
O. JOHNSON, and S. W. CARDIFF

**Summary:** Yet another tropical species has hopped across the Rio Grande. Well, just barely... Birders flocked to the Rio Grande in Laredo, TX to see the ABA Area's 1st **Amazon Kingfisher**, a species that has been long expected. The world's southernmost known record of **Ivory Gull** occurred on the GA-AL border. What could the Amazon Kingfisher and the Ivory Gull possibly have in common? While thrilling for birders, there is much concern that the stream of lowland Mexican vagrants (thus, not altitudinal migrants) and the recent rash of southerly Ivory Gull records are both linked to the man-made climate crisis. (In the case of lowland Mexican vagrants: more suitable climate and habitat. In the case of Ivory Gull: disappearance of suitable climate and habitat.) An **Oriental Turtle-Dove** was in BC. Potential state firsts include Thayer's Gull in ME, Mountain Bluebird in BCS, and Lazuli Bunting in AL. Roadside Hawks appeared at 2 locations in south TX. Anna's Hummingbird was confirmed nesting in NM for the 1st time.

**Southeast:** A Richardson's [Cackling] Goose was at St. Marks NWR, *Wakulla*, FL 1/28. An adult male **Masked Duck** continued at Viera Wetlands, *Brevard*, FL; the county also hosted a Eurasian Wigeon. A Common Merganser was in *Duval*, FL 1/7. A female Harlequin Duck, the 1st "chaseable" one in FL in 20 years, was at Sebastian Inlet SP, *Brevard* 1/26–31. A young male Common Eider was at Pelican Harbor, *Miami-Dade*, FL 1/17–18. An adult **Ivory Gull** wowed birders at West Point Dam in GA and AL. Discovered 1/25, it died 4 days later of a fungal lung infection. Neither state had prior records. Right on the heels of last month's Ancient Murrelet, FL had

2 additional records of beached alcids: the state's 3rd Atlantic Puffin at Hobe Sound NWR and the state's 14th Razorbill at Cocoa Beach. AL's 5th Anna's Hummingbird, a male, was banded 1/26 in *Madison*. A **La Sagra's Flycatcher** continued in *Miami-Dade*, FL. GA's 2nd **Virginia's Warbler**, a female, was in Valdosta, *Lowndes*, GA. A Townsend's Warbler was noted in *Broward* 1/31, and a Black-throated Gray Warbler continued in *Palm Beach*, FL. *Pickens*, FL continued to provide winter refuge to a **Green-tailed Towhee**. A female Bullock's Oriole was in *Leon*, FL 1/7. An impressive flock of 143 Brewer's Blackbirds was found in *Escambia*, FL 1/14. Two Western Tanagers were reported in south FL. AL's 1st **Lazuli Bunting** was photographed near Ft. Morgan 1/31.

**East-Central:** A Barnacle Goose continued in *Hunterdon*, NJ. Two female Barrow's Goldeneyes were in *Monmouth*, NJ 1/28–2/2. A Western Grebe was rediscovered in *Monmouth*, NJ 1/28. *Lyon*, KY hosted an adult Little Gull 1/23–24. A California Gull was in *Livingston* and *Marshall*, KY 1/19–23. A Prairie Falcon was in *Cumberland*, PA through 2/5. NJ's 6th Spotted Towhee continued in *Burlington*. A Le Conte's Sparrow was present in *Chester*, PA through 1/25.

**Northeast:** CT's 2nd "Black" Brant was discovered 1/24 in *New London*. A Tufted Duck was at Wayland, MA. A possible 1st-cycle **Thayer's Gull** was photographed in Augusta, ME 1/21; if confirmed, it would be the 1st state record. Yellow-legged and Slaty-backed gulls con-



**La Sagra's Flycatcher.** Cape Florida, *Miami-Dade County, Florida*; 3 February 2010. © John Puschock.



**Masked Duck.** *Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida; 22 January 2010. © Keith Brady.*

continued to be seen at Quidi Vidi L., NL. A visit to Monhegan I., ME 2/5 produced a Sedge Wren. A Yellow-throated Warbler continued to visit feeders in Falmouth, *Cumberland*, ME. A Lincoln's Sparrow was wintering in Kennebunk, *York*, ME.

**North-Central:** A Glaucous-winged Gull was reported from *Sanilac*, MI 2/6. Single Great Black-backed Gulls were noted in 2 MO counties: *Macon* and *Benton*. It continued to be a good winter for (birders finding) Varied Thrushes in the region. An Ovenbird was attempting to overwinter in *Cook*, IL. A Chestnut-collared Longspur was photographed at Columbia Bottom, *St. Louis*, MO 1/10. SK and MB continued to host a **Rustic Bunting** and a **Brambling**, respectively.

**South-Central:** Two Trumpeter Swans in *Ouachita* 1/12–2/6 would be the 1st for LA in almost a century. A Long-tailed Duck was found near Rockport, TX 2/9. A possible Yellow-billed Loon at L. Maumelle, *Pulaski* 2/7–10 would represent AR's 2nd record. A Northern Goshawk was photographed in *Moore*, TX 1/11. **Roadside Hawks** were confirmed from 2 locations in the Lower Rio Grande Valley: *Frontera Audubon Thicket* in *Weslaco* and *Falcon SP*.

The former bird was subsequently found dead. A female **Amazon Kingfisher** was discovered 1/24 at the mouth of Zacate Creek in *Laredo*, TX. A Calliope Hummingbird in *Pulaski* represented AR's 6th record. A **Brown Jay** was at San Ygnacio, TX 1/21; it had been 2 years since the last confirmed record in the U.S. The **Northern Wheatear** continued near *Beeville*, TX. A Western Tanager was in *Pulaski*, AR 2/5–8. A male **Crimson-collared Grosbeak** was found at *Quinta Mazatlán* in *McAllen*, TX 2/3.

**Mexico:** Seven Aleutian [Cackling] Geese were found 1/8 at *Estero San José*, BCS. An *elegans* Red-shouldered Hawk was at *El Oro*, BCS 1/13. Besides a Blue-footed Booby, a pelagic trip off *Puerto Ángel*, Oax. 1/26 produced an impressive assortment of shearwaters: 1 Pink-footed, 2 Townsend's, 35 Black-vented, 500 Galápagos, and a whopping 22,500 Wedge-tailed. An Aplomado Falcon was seen near *La Venta*, Oax. 2/3; in light of prior months' reports, it seems likely that the species is now resident on the Pacific slope of the state. The same can be said of Black Hawk-Eagle, which was again reported in the *Sierra de Miahuatlán*. A Franklin's Gull was seen at *Santa Mara Xadani*, Oax. 1/14. A Sandwich Tern was noted 1/24 at the *Agibampo* estuary in *Son*. Single Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds were noted on the Pacific slope of Oax. near *La Venta* 1/16 and 2/3. The 1st record for BCS, a **Mountain Bluebird** was at *Lagunas de Chametla* 1/11; a *japonicus* ("Siberian") American Pipit was there the same day. A pair of Hooded Warblers was near *La Venta*, Oax. 2/3. An exceptionally rare winter **Scarlet Tanager**



**Ivory Gull.** *West Point Dam, Troup County, Georgia; 26 January 2010. © Michael Todd.*





**Amazon Kingfisher.** Laredo, Webb County, Texas; 24 January 2010. © Alan Wormington.

was found in BCS 1/13. Three Yellow-throated Euphonias were found flocking with a pair of Elegant Euphonias just north of Oaxaca City, Oax. 1/18.

**Interior West:** A Tundra Swan made a brief stop in *Pima*, AZ 1/13, and another was in *Graham*, AZ 1/11. A “Black” Brant was a good find in *Pima*, AZ 1/22. A Eurasian Wigeon remained at the Clovis sewage ponds, *Curry*, NM through mid-Jan. Two White-winged Scoters were seen in *Mohave*, AZ. Quail Creek SP, *Washington*, UT continued to host a Yellow-billed Loon. A Red-throated Loon was at Lake Havasu, AZ. Another visited Elephant Butte L., *Sierra*, NM 1/16; the same location hosted a Red-necked Grebe 8 days prior. A strong winter storm brought 4 Magnificent Frigatebirds to AZ 1/22–24. A Green Heron returned for a 2nd winter in *Canyon*, ID. Another frigid ID heron was found on a CBC in *Twin Falls*: a Snowy Egret. *Washoe*, NV hosted a Baird’s Sandpiper and Western and Lesser Black-backed gulls. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Caballo L., *Sierra*, NM 1/3. A Black-legged Kittiwake present in *Mohave* through 2/6 was only the 2nd this century in AZ. Southeast AZ’s 1st Mew Gull was in *Cochise* on 2/2. A Broad-winged Hawk was in *Mari-copa*, AZ. NM’s 1st nesting of Anna’s



**Mountain Bluebird.** Lagunas de Chametla, Baja California Sur; 11 January 2010. © Steven Mlodinow.

Hummingbird was reported near Las Cruces 1/31. Rufous-backed Robins continued to be seen in *Santa Cruz* and *Gila*, AZ. Rare in southern AZ, an American Dipper was in *Pima* 1/16; the county’s Rufous-capped Warbler continued through 1/30, and a Common Grackle was found there 2/4. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was in *Doña Ana*, NM. An Ovenbird was at Hillsboro, *Sierra*, NM 1/14. A McCown’s Longspur was in *Box Elder*, UT 1/17–29, and a Rusty Blackbird was in *Uintah*, UT 1/26.

**Pacific Coast:** Tufted Ducks continued in *Contra Costa* and *Alameda*, CA. A King Eider continued in San Pedro, *Los Angeles*, CA through mid-Jan. The long-celebrated Laysan Albatross was still at Arena Cove, *Mendocino*, CA. Two Cook’s Petrels were seen from shore at Point Pinos, *Monterey*, CA 1/18 during particularly strong winds; another individual was seen the following day. Two Neotropic Cormorants continued at Fig Lagoon, *Imperial*, CA through early Jan. A dead Brown Booby was found 1/27 in *Clatsop*, OR. A Wood Stork was in San Dimas, *Los Angeles*, CA. The, or another, Black Vulture was found at Lake Casitas, *Ventura*, CA on 2/5. A light-morph Harlan’s Hawk was at Davis, *Yolo*, CA; light morphs are rarely recorded in CA. A Harris’s Hawk was in Brawley, *Imperial*, CA 1/3–18. The Bar-tailed Godwit continued in Irvine, *Orange*, CA. Two or 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at the Salton Sea, CA, where the species is increasingly regular. An **Oriental Turtle-Dove** was seen 1/18 at the Alaksen NWA in Ladner, BC. The long-staying Western Scrub-Jay continued in Maple Ridge, BC. The *Santa Barbara*, CA “Black-backed” [White] Wag-tail continued. A **Red-throated Pipit** continued in San Diego, CA through at least 1/17; this is the 1st January record for the ABA Area. A Brown Thrasher continued at Buena Vista, *Kern*, CA. Curve-billed Thrashers were still being seen in *San Bernardino*, *Imperial*, and *Riverside*, CA. A Virginia’s Warbler was wintering at the quite northerly location of Arcata, *Humboldt*, CA. Orchard Orioles were being found in impressive numbers across southern CA.