

SIGHTINGS

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"Sightings" appears monthly, alternating between *Winging It* and *Birding*, with the latest news, reports, and rumors from the United States, Canada, 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 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.

by MICHAEL L. P. RETTER, with special thanks
to PAUL LEHMAN and STEVEN W. CARDIFF

Summary: Mexico was hopping in March and April; there were two potential additions to the country list: **Gray-breasted Crake** and "**Common**" [**Green-winged**] **Teal**. State and provincial firsts included White-faced Ibis (PA), Fulvous Owl (Oaxaca), "Common" [Mew] Gull (NH), Fork-tailed Flycatcher (OR), Carolina Wren (MT), Eastern Meadowlark (BCS), and Hooded Oriole (MS). After a several-year hiatus, a Tamaulipas Crow was seen in TX.

Southeast: Birders continued to discuss the countability of a Red-footed Booby released from (and still frequenting) a rehab center in *Miami-Dade*, FL. A Neotropic Cormorant continued in *Wakulla*, FL. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Flamingo, Everglades NP, FL 3/28–4/2 is suspected to have wintered locally. A La Sagra's Flycatcher continued in *Miami-Dade*, FL. A **Loggerhead Kingbird** was discovered 3/22 in Key West, FL. A **Thick-billed Vireo** was discovered at a different location there the next day. A female Townsend's Warbler was in



Bar-tailed Godwit (with Willets). *Flamingo, Everglades National Park, Florida; 28 March 2010.* © Doug Gochfeld.

Miami-Dade, FL 3/27. The *Escambia*, FL Green-tailed Towhee continued. The region's 3rd **Hooded Oriole** this season was MS's 1st, a bird present 2/6–3/15 in *Harrison*.

East-Central: A "Black" Brant was in Lake Como, *Monmouth*, NJ in late Mar. A Barnacle Goose was found in upstate NY at Iroquois NWR 3/20. A male Eurasian Wigeon was at Steele Creek Park, Bristol, extreme NE TN 3/6. A "Common" Teal was in *Sussex*, DE. Tufted Ducks were in *Chester*, PA and *Queen Anne's*, MD. *Erie*, PA held a Harlequin Duck through 3/15. An Eared Grebe was in *Cape May*, NJ 3/15–17. PA's 1st (and long overdue) **White-faced Ibis** was in *Cumberland* 3/21. An early April movement of Swallow-tailed Kites was noted in DE, NY, and NJ. A number of Black-headed Gulls were noted across NJ, DE, and PA. NJ's 2nd Brown-headed Nuthatch was in *Cape May* 4/8+. A Spotted Towhee lingered in *Burlington*, NJ.

Northeast: A Ruddy Shelduck of unknown origin was seen at various locations in VT the latter half of Mar.; most are assumed to be escapees. A Barnacle Goose was at Baie-du-Febvre, QC 3/21–25. A Pink-footed Goose was discovered in St. John's, NL 3/16; another at Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu, QC 3/27–30 was in a flock with banded Greenland-breeding Canada Geese and an apparent *flavirostris* ("Greenland") Greater White-fronted Goose. A pair of Trumpeter Swans was in Stratford, CT 3/28; like other birds that have occurred in the region recently, they are thought to have originated within the Great Lakes population. "Common" Teal were noted at Deschambault, QC and Brunswick, *Cumberland*, ME. PEI's 3rd Black Vulture was discovered in Dingwells Mills 3/20. NH's 1st Mew Gull was a "**Common**" Gull in Exeter 3/2+. A Slaty-backed Gull was still frequenting Quidi Vidi L., NL. Up to 2 Ivory Gulls were seen flying along the St. Lawrence River at Lévis, QC 3/6–11. A male Painted Bunting was still frequenting a feeder in *Hancock*, ME. This was also the case with a Lark Sparrow in Falmouth, *Cumberland*, ME.



Hooded Oriole. *Pass Christian, Harrison County, Mississippi; 2 February 2010. © Sharon Milligan.*

North-Central: A Neotropical Cormorant was in *Page*, IA 4/3. Between 25 and 30 *Plegadis* ibis passed overhead in *Milwaukee*, WI 3/18. A gray morph Gyrfalcon was at Point Pelee, ON 4/2. A **Common Crane** was in *Lincoln*, NE 3/18–24. A flock of 11 Whooping Cranes was found in *Charles Mix*, SD. Eight different “Kumlien’s” [Iceland] Gulls were seen in the Ft. Pierre, SD area over the period; another was at Smithville L. near Kansas City, MO. Two Townsend’s Solitaires were in *Marquette*, WI 3/16. A European Goldfinch appeared at a backyard feeder in *Allamakee*, IA 3/16; did this bird originate from the Chicago-area population?

South-Central: An Anhinga was in *Ellsworth*, KS 4/1. Far out of range was a Common Black-Hawk photographed 3/30 in *Fayette*, TX—less than 100 mi. west of Houston. A White-tailed Hawk photographed in *Calcasieu* 3/11 was only the 7th record for LA. *Stafford*, KS hosted 76 Whooping Cranes 4/1. TX hosted 2 Northern Jacanas: 1 was discovered at Santa Ana NWR and a 2nd lingered at Choke Canyon SP. An impressive 2,838 Long-billed Curlews were counted 3/31 in *Kearny*, KS. A Ruff was in Corpus Christi, TX 3/21. Port Isabel, *Cameron*, TX hosted a Purple Sandpiper 3/25–28. A Rose-throated Becard was at Estero Llano Grande SP in southern TX. After a multiple-year absence by the species, a **Tamaulipas Crow** returned to the famous Brownsville Dump 3/26. A **Northern Wheatear** continued near Beeville, TX. A Shiny Cowbird was in *Cameron*, LA 4/2. The last report of Blue Bunting from Lagauna Atascosa NWR, TX was on 3/14. A male European Goldfinch was photographed at a feeder at Shreveport, LA 3/13.

Mexico: An adult male “**Common**” Teal, possibly Mexico’s 1st, was found at the Llanos de Hiray, BCS

3/13. Six Hooded Mergansers were at La Ribera, BCS 3/17. A Double-crested Cormorant was at Estero Unión Hidalgo near Juchitán, Oax. 3/25. An imm. Golden Eagle briefly stopped in Villahermosa, Tab. 3/14. A 1st for Mexico, 3 **Gray-breasted Crakes** were found near Chajul, Chis. 3/27. The mountains just above Oaxaca City have long been known to hold an elusive population of *Strix* owls. These were always assumed to be Barred Owls, but a photo taken 3/30 at La Cumbre seems to show a **Fulvous Owl**. Indeed, the bird responded to a Guatemalan recording of that species, which had only been known from south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. A Groove-billed Ani was photographed at Todos Santos, BCS in early Mar. A visit to Miraflores, BCS 3/16 produced a Hooded Warbler. A Blue Seedeater was noted near Las Guacamayas in lowland Chis. 3/28. A Chestnut-collared Longspur, the 4th for BCS, was at the Llanos de Hiray 3/13. The same location hosted the Baja Peninsula’s 1st **Eastern Meadowlark** 3/13; five more were reported from near Mazatlán, Sin. 3/24.

Interior West: A Eurasian Wigeon was in *Baca*, CO 3/28. A Tufted Duck was in *Benewah*, ID. Elephant Butte Dam in *Sierra*, NM hosted a Red-throated Loon 3/8 and a Red-necked Grebe 3/23. Impressive counts of 30+ Common Black-Hawks and 25+ Zone-tailed Hawks were reported from *Santa Cruz*, AZ 3/20. Quite far north, a Green Kingfisher was in *Maricopa*, AZ 2/26–3/15. A Pinyon Jay continued in Hereford, *Cochise*, AZ. The male Flame-colored Tanager returned for its 8th year in Madera Canyon, *Santa Cruz*, AZ. Florida Canyon, AZ continues to provide refuge for a Rufous-capped Warbler. MT’s 1st **Carolina Wren** was photographed in *Lake* 3/31. Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were in *Jefferson*, CO and *Pima* and *Cochise*, AZ. A quartet of Lawrence’s Goldfinches was observed at Pancho Villa SP, *Luna*, NM 3/14.



Pink-footed Goose. *St. John’s, Newfoundland; 19 March 2010. © Jared Clarke.*



Common Crane (with Sandhill Cranes). *Lincoln County, Nebraska; 18 March 2010.* © Virginia Clark.

Pacific Coast: Seven Whooper Swans were observed on Adak I., AK 3/29. A Yellow-billed Loon was inland at Castaic Lagoon, *Los Angeles, CA 3/8+*. A Manx Shearwater was seen from Pigeon Point, *San Mateo, CA 3/13*. A pelagic trip off Kauai, HI 3/26 turned up 2 Mottled Petrels, a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, 2 Gray-backed Terns, and a White Tern. A Brown Booby was off *San Diego 3/7*; another was on Año Nuevo I., *San Mateo, CA 3/16*. The 2 *Ventura* Yellow-crowned Night-Herons continued through 3/5. Zone-tailed Hawks were in *Orange* and *San Diego, CA*. A Western Sandpiper was on Oahu, HI 3/28. A Little Gull spent 3/1–15 in *Riverside, CA*, where there was also a

Lesser Black-backed Gull. A conservative count of 228 Rose-ringed Parakeets was made in downtown Honolulu, HI 3/14, when 4 nests were found; these introduced birds have been expanding in numbers and in range over the past decade, but there are few reports of reproductive behavior. An imm. male Anna's Hummingbird was in Juneau, AK 3/21. *Tillamook* hosted OR's 1st **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** 4/5. The *Los Angeles, CA* Dusky-capped Flycatcher was present well into April. Persisting wintering warblers included a Pine Warbler in *Orange* and a Painted Redstart in *San Diego, CA*. An adult male Bullock's × Baltimore Oriole hybrid was photographed at Long Beach, *Orange, CA 3/20*. An Orchard Oriole continued in Goleta, *Santa Barbara, CA* through 3/22. A dead 'Apapane was found on Kahoolawe, HI, a largely barren and uninhabited island formerly used as a target for bombs and naval artillery. 'Apapane had never been recorded from the island previously, so this record represents the 1st unequivocal instance of inter-island migration in the species. 'Apapane, like 'Iiwi and the



Carolina Wren. *Arlee, Montana; 31 March 2010.* © Jim Greaves.

possibly extinct 'Ō'ū, is considered to consist of undifferentiated populations found on multiple islands; the Kahoolawe record lends credence to the idea that inter-island movements prevent the evolution of separate populations. A Rusty Blackbird was in *Snohomish, WA* in early April.