SIGHTINGS

MID-MAY TO EARLY JUNE 2010

"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.

compiled by Michael L. P. Retter, with thanks to Paul Lehman and Steven W. Cardiff

Summary: An apparent 1st for the ABA Area was a Redlegged Thrush in Florida. The bird was photographed on the state's central Atlantic coast. Red-legged Thrush is common across the Caribbean, with each major island seemingly having its own distinctive population. The Florida bird appears to have been from the particularly attractive Bahamas population. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks staged a massive movement into the eastern half of the continent, reaching as far north as ON. Potential state and provincial firsts included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (KY, NY), Fork-tailed Flycatcher (NV), Violet-green Swallow (NL), "Black-backed" White Wagtail (NV), and Shiny Cowbird (NM). An active and so-far successful White-winged Dove nest was found in IA, a 1st for the state.

Southeast: A flock of 15 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was reported 5/27–28 from *New Hanover*, NC. A **European Storm-Petrel** was off Cape Hatteras, NC 5/31. Perhaps a 1st for far western NC, 4 Black-necked Stilts were in *Forsyth* 5/28. Potentially a 1st for the ABA Area, a **Red-legged Thrush** was pho-





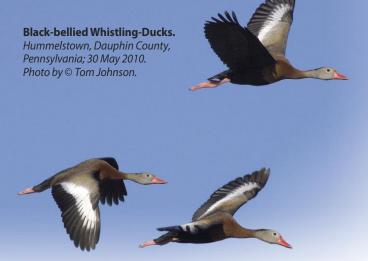
Bahama Mockingbird. Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County, Florida; 14 May 2010. Photo by © David Laliberte.

tographed in Melbourne Beach, *Brevard*, FL 5/31; it was not seen again. Another Caribbean stray, a **Bahama Mockingbird**, turned up in *Pinellas*, FL mid-May; it is the most northerly record known for the species, and its occurrence on the Gulf Coast is also novel.

East-Central: Remarkable considering the profusion of records across the eastern half of the continent in the past couple of years, KY just logged its 1st and 2nd records of Blackbellied Whistling-Duck: 5 birds in McLean 5/20 and 1 in Warren 6/13. A flock of 5 appeared in Dauphin, PA 5/30, and presumably the same birds provided NY with its first record in Oswego the next day. No fewer that 54 were in TN, including an astonishing 46 at various locations in Shelby 5/24. A Redbilled Tropicbird returned to ME for yet another summer. White-faced Ibises were noted in Sevier, TN and Atlantic and Cape May, NJ. A Glossy Ibis was photographed in Hopkins, KY 5/10–11. A Swallow-tailed Kite flew over Cape May, NJ 5/21. A Wilson's Plover showed up at Sandy Hook, Monmouth, NJ 5/24. A Whimbrel was in Warren, KY 5/13, and 3 more were in Fulton, KY 5/15. A Bar-tailed Godwit was at Brigantine in Atlantic, NJ through 5/22.

Northeast: NI's 2nd Pacific Golden-Plover was nicely photographed during its 6/5–8 stay at Cape Race. European

24 BIRDING • JULY 2010



Golden-Plovers showed up there in numbers; 19 were present 5/10. Additional reports included 7+ in St. John's and 6 at Bonavista. A Black-tailed Godwit was present in Labrador (NL) at Goose Bay, 5/11–12. A "European" Whimbrel was seen at Cape Spear, NL 5/29. An Upland Sandpiper, one of fewer than half a dozen records for NL, was at Mistaken Point 5/10–11. Two Black Rails were heard singing in *Essex*, MA. A **Violet-green Swallow** was photographed at St. John's, NL 6/3; a 1st provincial record, it was discovered 6 days earlier. Surprisingly, the only Northern Wheatear in NL this spring was an individual bird at Cape Race 6/5. A Painted Bunting at Birchy Cove near Bonavista provided NL with its 2nd record of the species.

North-Central: If you hadn't noticed, it was the spring of the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck! Ten were seen on Peche Island, Windsor, ON 5/15. Reports also came from IL and MO. A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was at Goose Pond FWA, *Greene*, IN 5/18. Neotropic Cormorants were in *Lancaster*, NE; *Page*, IA; and *Cook*, IL. A subadult Mississippi Kite was seen at Horicon

NWR, *Dodge*, WI 6/6. A backyard water feature in *LaPorte*, IN hosted a Purple Gallinule the entire period—an echo of the previous month's irruption. A Curlew Sandpiper was in Blenheim, ON 5/17. A Western Sandpiper was in *Dakota*, MN 5/13. Whitewinged Doves nested for the 1st time in IA, in *Page*. Little Gulls were noted in *Manitowoc* and *Sheboygan*, WI; the same individual may have been involved. A Western Wood-Pewee was reported from Pelee Island, ON 5/18. A Rock Wren was found in extreme eastern SD in *Minnehaha* 5/16; perhaps it's no coincidence that the *Bremer*, IA bird was

last seen 5/15. Kirtland's Warblers continue to do well in WI: *Adams* held 25+ birds (incl. 19 males and 5+ nests), and *Marinette* was home to 4+ males (and 1 nest). Prothonotary Warblers were found breeding again in *Union*, SD. A Wormeating Warbler was photographed at Cross Ranch SP, *Oliver*, ND 5/30. A male Lark Bunting was in *Milwaukee*, WI 6/1–2. Three Baird's Sparrows were found singing in *Sioux*, NE 5/19. An Eastern Meadowlark was near Folsom, *Custer*, SD 6/2.

South-Central: A Red-billed Tropicbird was spotted from shore at Port Aransas, TX 6/2. A very late Purple Sandpiper was photographed near Port Isabel in *Cameron*, TX 6/1. A pair of Brown Jays was seen along the Rio Grande at Salineño, *Starr*, TX 6/10. Very rare in LA in spring, Red-necked Phalaropes were photographed on barrier islands in *Plaquemines* 5/6 and in *Terrebonne* 5/20. A Yellow-green Vireo was at Johnsons Bayou, *Cameron*, LA 5/8–28.

Mexico: A 6/4–8 pelagic trip off BCN turned up 10 Cook's Petrels. Ten Black Terns were photographed inland at a flooded field just outside Matamoros, Tamaulipas on the notably late date of 6/9. The 6/4–8 BCN pelagic trip found 3 **Pigeon Guillemots** at the Coronado Is. 6/8; the species is accidental in Mexico. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was photographed at Lagunita el Cipres, BCN 5/29. A Hudsonian Godwit was photographed 5/21 in Hidalgo at Laguna de Metitzlán. Up to 10 Sinaloa Martins were observed feeding with Gray-breasted Martins at a fire near Maruata in coastal Michoacán 6/1.

Interior West: A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was at Sumner Lake, *De Baca*, NM 5/14. A Tricolored Heron hung out in *Fremont*, CO 5/18–23. A Red-shouldered Hawk was found in *Doña Ana*, NM 5/17. A Gray Hawk was in *Eddy*, NM 5/11. A Common Black-Hawk was observed in *El Paso*, CO 5/16–17. A White-rumped Sandpiper showed up in *Cochise*, AZ 5/19.



Pigeon Guillemots. Coronados Islands, Baja California; 8 June 2010. Photo by © J. Douglas Hanna.

W W W . A B A . O R G 25



"Black-backed" White Wagtail. Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Elko County, Nevada; 3 June 2010. Photo by © Jeff Mackay–U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

NM hosted Whimbrels in De Baca and Curry mid-May. A Hudsonian Godwit was at Bitter Lake NWR in Chaves, NM 5/15. The Sierra, NM Black Turnstone was last observed 5/15. Rare terns in AZ included Least in Maricopa 5/11 and Arctic in Gila 6/2. Another Arctic Tern was in Lincoln 5/23-6/5. A Black Skimmer was in Mojave, AZ 5/28. NV's 1st Fork-tailed Flycatcher was found 6/4 at Lincoln's Pahranagat NWR. Also exciting was an Alder Flycatcher at Galisteo, Santa Fe, NM 5/23. A Yellow-throated Vireo was in Santa Cruz, AZ 5/22. Another state 1st for NV, a "Black-backed" White Wagtail was nicely photographed in the Ruby Valley, Elko 6/3. A Fantailed Warbler in Cochise, AZ 5/20 was the 2nd report for the county this May. A Tropical Parula was found in Pima, AZ 5/31. Rare eastern warblers in the region included the following: Yellow-throated in Pima, AZ; Prothonotary in Socorro, NM; Hoodeds in Pima and Cochise, AZ; Canada in Pueblo, CO; Kentucky in Pima, AZ; and an exceptional Connecticut in El Paso, CO. A Flame-colored Tanager continues in Santa Cruz, AZ. A male Yellow Grosbeak was photographed in NM before flying across the border into Cochise, AZ 5/5. A Bobolink visited Santa Fe, NM 5/27, and a **Shiny Cowbird** was reported from *Eddy*, NM 5/29. If confirmed, the cowbird would understandably be a 1st state record.

Pacific Coast: Some 8–12 Short-tailed Albatrosses where tallied in the Aleutian Is. region, AK 5/18–31. A King Eider was in *Lincoln*, OR 5/16; the bird at Ocean Shores, WA continued and has been present for nearly a year. A trip to Lehua Islet near Ni'ihau turned up a Buller's Shearwater, rarely reported from HI waters. A Common Moorhen was in *Coos*, OR 5/17. Single American Oystercatchers were noted in late May in *Orange* and *San Luis Obispo*, CA; the latter county had no pre-

vious records. Two Hudsonian Godwits were in Los Angeles, CA 5/15-19. A female Ruff was at Iona Island, BC 5/11. Kona Village Resort on Hawai'i, HI hosted a Bristle-thighed Curlew 5/12–21. An Acorn Woodpecker, only the 3rd record for BC, was present in Princeton 5/24-26. Single Lesser Nighthawks were recorded at 2 different Harney, OR locations in early June. Eastern Phoebes turned up in both Curry and Deschutes, OR. A Western Scrub-Jay continued into its 11th month in Maple Ridge, BC. Stanislaus, CA hosted a Yellow-throated Vireo 5/17–18. A Bell's Vireo was in San Mateo, CA. A Redthroated Pipit was north of Victoria, BC 5/9-11. Several pairs of Northern Parulas were scattered across CA in early June, suggesting they may stay to nest. A Yellow-throated Warbler was in San Francisco, CA. Two Kentucky Warblers were in Kern, CA. Placer, CA's 1st Painted Redstart was in Auburn 5/16-23. Blue Grosbeak records in OR came from Lincoln 5/27-29 and Washington 5/31. A Lawrence's Goldfinch was found 5/16 in Clackamas, OR. In The Nature Conservancy's Waikamoi Preserve on Maui, HI an 'Akohekohe was found 5/5, and a Maui Parrotbill was found 5/18. Highlights from Shemya I., AK mid-Late May included Tundra Bean-Goose, Common Pochard, Spotted Redshank, Common Cuckoo, Eyebrowed Thrush, Siberian Rubythroat, Rustic Bunting, and a large Brambling tally (40+). A trip to Attu I., AK 5/23–27 produced the following noteworthy species: Red-flanked Bluetail, Rustic Bunting, Brambling, and Hawfinch. Both Pin-tailed Snipe and Solitary Snipe were collected on Attu this May; both have been previously photographed in AK, the latter on St. Paul 2 years ago, when it was an ABA Area first. St. Paul I., AK hosted Stilt Sandpiper, Eyebrowed Thrush, and Northern Waterthrush, while birders at Gambell, AK found Common House-Martin, "Siberian" Stonechat, Rustic Bunting, and Common Rosefinch.



26 BIRDING • JULY 2010