

BY RICK WRIGHT, WITH THANKS TO JON DUNN AND PAUL LEHMAN

PHENOMENA: Tropical Storm Ernesto blew seabirds into Chesapeake Bay and up the Potomac, Susquehanna, and Delaware rivers in early September. Single **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** drifted inland to Fairfax Co., VA, and to central PA. Up to 50 Wilson's, along with more than 70 **Leach's** and 3 **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels**, were observed from VA's Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel, where single **Black-capped** and **Bulwer's Petrels** were also seen; if accepted, the Bulwer's will provide only the 3rd record for the ABA area. A **Sooty Shearwater** was found near Williamsburg. An **American Oystercatcher** in Philadelphia was PA's fourth, and a flock of 30 **Hudsonian Godwits** in that state set a local record. **Royal, Sooty, and Bridled Terns** were widely reported from VA to Long Island, and Bridge/Tunnel watchers found 2 **Brown Noddies**. Two adult **Arctic Terns** were found at Cape Charles. Notable numbers of **Black Terns** were observed both coastally and inland, with up to 175 at some locations.

Southeast

Seven **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** were near Virginia Beach in late July, while a pair in Brooks Co., GA, were accompanied by 14 ducklings in August. A **Mottled Duck** in Clayton Co., GA, in late August provided a rare inland record for that state. A **Black-bellied Storm-Petrel** photographed off NC in mid-July was the second for the western North Atlantic. A late-August trip off MD and DE produced single **White-faced Storm-Petrels** in each state's waters. Two **Herald Petrels** were seen off Cape Hatteras in early August. A subadult **Masked Booby** on land in FL's Volusia Co. lingered into September. A second-year **Brown Booby** was photographed in coastal VA in early August. A "Great White Heron" wandered north to Kent Co., MD, in late August. A **Wood Stork** and 2 juvenile **White Ibis** visited Fulton Co., KY, in early August. Unusual numbers of **Mississippi** and **Swallow-tailed Kites** were reported north of GA's coastal plain; a **Swallow-tailed Kite** was over Baltimore, MD, in late August. Casual in GA, 1 to 4 **Limpkins** were reported in July from Chickasawhatchee WMA, Reed Bingham, State Park, and Dougherty and Henry Cos. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was in Columbia Co., FL, in late August. KY birders found a male **Ruff** in early July and an adult **Little Stint** in August. A **Ruff** was in Palm Beach Co., FL, in late August. A flock of 30-35 **Hudsonian Godwits** in DC in late August was the largest ever recorded there. A late-August pelagic trip off GA produced a **Sabine's Gull** and a **Long-tailed Jaeger**, each said to be a fourth record for the state. A **White-winged Dove** was in Morgan Co., GA, in late August. A **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** appeared in Floyd Co., GA, in mid-August. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was seen in coastal DE in mid-August. A **Cave Swallow** was reported from Spalding Co., GA, in early August.

Northeast

A **Yellow-nosed Albatross** photographed in ME in late July was likely the same individual responsible for reports this spring in MA and NH. Only the 3rd or 4th inland record for the ABA area, a **Manx Shearwater** was photographed at the west end of Lake Ontario in early September. Three **White-faced Storm-Petrels** were seen 80 miles off Nantucket in early September. An **American White Pelican** visited NS in late July. Two **Tricolored Herons** were in Niagara Falls, ON, in August. The ABA area's third **Western Reef-Heron** lingered in NS through August 8, then reappeared ten days later on the ME/NH border, where it stayed into early September. Single **White Ibis** were at Prime Hook, DE, in July and at NJ's **Brigantine NWR** in late August. A **Mississippi Kite** was unexpected in RI in early July; another was in northeastern PA in mid-July. A pair of **Merlins** bred in McKean Co., PA, possibly the first state breeding record for this expanding species. A **Purple**



Red-necked Stint, Connecticut. Photo © Ryan Stiles.

Gallinule was briefly on Cape Cod in mid-August. A **Piping Plover** in July in VT will be only the third record for that state if accepted. Two **Common Ringed Plovers**, both adult males, found their way to NL in August; a juvenile was on Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula in early September. An adult **Red-necked Stint** photographed in CT in mid-July will be about the third for the state. A **Black-tailed Godwit** was at Plum Island, MA, for a week in July. Single **Curlew Sandpipers** were found at Cape May in

late July and on Cape Cod in late August; a bright adult was at Bombay Hook in August with a female **Ruff**. Additional **Ruffs** were reported in July and August from PA, NY, RI, NS, and NL. A near-adult **Yellow-legged Gull** in NL in early August was said to be the first summer record for North America. Two **Gull-billed Terns** were in eastern MA in mid-July. One or 2 **Sandwich Terns** visited RI in early August. A **Royal Tern** was on Seavey Island, NH, in mid-August. Single **White-winged Doves** were reported from Newport, RI, and Northampton Co., PA, in mid-August. Still rare in the region, a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was in Cape May in mid-August. A **Burrowing Owl** (subspecies still undetermined) was photographed in Columbia Falls in August, a first record for ME if accepted. In the vanguard of the species' regular autumn vagrancy, a **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported in late July from NH. Only the second for MA, a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was banded on Cape Cod in early August.

A **Gray Kingbird** wandered to Martha's Vineyard in early September. Single **Northern Wheatears** were found in August and early September in NL, NS, and a mall parking lot in central NJ. A **Bicknell's Thrush** singing on Mt. Greylock, MA, in early August was said to be the first at that site in 25 years. A notable count of 39 **Dickcissels** was made in Cumberland Co., PA, in July. An adult

male Painted Bunting visited ME's Mt. Desert Island in late July.

Midwest

An American Black Duck in NE's Sandhills in July was unexpected. A **Wood Stork** photographed in southeast NE in early August is that state's second documented record. A juvenile **Reddish Egret** stopped briefly in Cimarron Co., KS, in early September. A Glossy Ibis in Woodbury Co., IA, in mid-August will be a fifth state record if accepted. Single Swallow-tailed Kites were seen in Ramsey and Chippewa Cos., MN, in July; another spent most of August in St. Louis, MO. A Snowy Plover pair in Lac Qui Parle Co., MN, brought off 2 chicks in July for a first state breeding record; an early August bird in IA was said to be that state's 12th. Two juvenile Snowy Plovers were at ND's Long Lake NWR in August. Single Ruffs were found in July and August in southern IL, Marion Co., IA, and southern OH. A flock of 20 Hudsonian Godwits in Marion Co., IA, in early August represented an extremely rare fall record. Dickinson Co., IA's, perennial Black-headed Gull was seen in mid-July. An adult **Slaty-backed Gull**, a first state record if accepted, discovered in Cook Co., MN, in late July was found dead in mid-August. A Lesser Black-backed Gull, still hypothetical in the state, visited Kidder Co., ND, in late July. An unprecedented movement of juvenile Northern Saw-whet Owls brought more than 150 into mist nets at Whitefish Point, MI, in late July and early August. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was near Columbus, OH, in early July. A Curve-billed Thrasher photographed at Valentine NWR in mid-July will be about the 6th for NE if accepted; an individual in that state's panhandle has been present for nearly 4 years. A **Sage Thrasher** was in MI's Luce Co. in early July. A Black-throated Gray Warbler photographed at Fargo, ND, in late August was said to be the second for that state if accepted.

Texas

A banded Greater Flamingo of unknown provenance was in the central coast's Bayside Marshes in August. Single **Northern Jacanas** appeared in Weslaco and at Bentsen in early August, the Weslaco bird still present in September. Photographs of a reported Amethyst-throated Hummingbird in the lower Rio Grande Valley in July were said to be inadequate for certain identification of what would be a first ABA-area record.

Southwest

An out-of-season Ross's Goose appeared in Green Valley, AZ, in early August. One or perhaps 2 frigatebirds flew over Tucson in early August. A juvenile Reddish Egret visited Eddy Co., NM, in early August; it or another was in Chavez Co. in early September. A White Ibis photographed in Pueblo Co., CO, in late July was one of fewer than 10 records for that state; another, long-staying individual continued into early September near Phoenix. A Little Blue Heron was north of Nogales, AZ, in July, while 2 lingered into August near Phoenix. A Tricolored Heron spent several late-sum-

mer weeks near Tucson. Two southeast AZ locations briefly hosted a total of 3 Roseate Spoonbills in late August. Apparent family groups of up to three Short-tailed Hawks were in AZ's Chiricahua and Huachuca Mountains in August. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen over Roosevelt Co., NM, in late August. Reintroduction of Aplomado Falcons into NM began with the release of 11 individuals in early August. Casual in AZ, a Purple Gallinule visited Tucson in late July. A state-first adult **Pacific Golden-Plover** was photographed in UT in early September. An adult Red Knot was at Willcox, AZ, in late July and early August. A **Black Turnstone** was reported from Lake Tahoe on the CA/NV border in late August. An Arctic Tern was found in central NM in late July. A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen and subsequently salvaged in late August in New Mexico. A dark-morph Parasitic Jaeger on AZ's Fort Huachuca in early September was severely out of habitat. A Magnificent Hummingbird was at feeders in La Plata Co., CO, in late July. July and August found one to two Berylline Hummingbirds in AZ's Chiricahua and Huachuca Mountains and in Madera Canyon, where a female built a nest in mid-August; Miller Canyon hosted as many as 14 hummingbird species at once in July and August. A tantalizing possible Thick-billed Parrot was reported from the species' historic range in southeast AZ in mid-August.

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher photographed in Roosevelt Co. in early September will be NM's third record if accepted. Single Rose-throated Becards were in Guadalupe Canyon and in Santa Cruz Co., AZ, in August and September. AZ's Patagonia Roadside Rest harbored a **White-eyed Vireo** in late July and August. A Great Crested Flycatcher was seen in Socorro Co., NM, in late August. A pair of Black Phoebes produced 2 young in Canon City, CO. The

first for the state, a pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers nested in the NM portion of Guadalupe Canyon; in AZ, the species was reported from the Santa Ritas, the Swisshelms, and Patagonia Lake. A notable incursion of **Aztec Thrushes** beginning in mid-July brought a report from Santa Fe, NM, and more than a dozen birds from the Huachuca and Santa Rita Mountains in AZ; at least one was still present in Madera Canyon in early September. A Carolina Wren was in northern NM in mid-August. A Prothonotary Warbler was in AZ's Chiricahuas in August. Only about the 10th for NM, a **Canada Warbler** was photographed in Socorro Co. in late August. A Hooded Warbler summered in Phoenix.

Two Rufous-capped Warblers continued in Sycamore Canyon, near Nogales, AZ, into September; the same site produced a **Tropical Parula** in mid-July. Madera Canyon's male Flame-colored Tanager was reported into early August, and a probable hybrid was seen in Miller Canyon in late August. Two Flame-colored Tanagers reported from upper Madera Canyon in mid-August were probably "new" vagrants. The expected small numbers of Painted Buntings began to arrive in NM and southeast AZ in late July. A female White-winged Crossbill was found in extreme southern Conejos Co., CO, in late July.

California

A Yellow-billed Loon was notable in Humboldt Co. in mid-August. A Short-tailed Albatross was salvaged on the beach at



Northern Jacana, Texas. Photo © Erik Breden.

Morro Bay in early August. A **Dark-rumped (Hawaiian/Galapagos) Petrel** was photographed off Fort Bragg in mid August; another was seen on a 4-day "Searcher" trip in Ventura Co. waters. Another **Dark-rumped Petrel** was seen from Point Dune in Malibu. Single Manx Shearwaters were seen in August at Southeast Farallon Island, from Point Pinos, and on a Fort Bragg pelagic trip, along with a record-early Short-tailed Shearwater. An immature Red-footed Booby captured at Camp Pendleton in early August had swallowed a fish hook. A Brown Booby was in Mendocino Co. in early August; another was seen later in the month near the SE Farallon Islands. As many as 4 immature Blue-footed Boobies continued into early September at the Salton Sea. An adult Red-billed Tropicbird was seen near San Clemente Island in late July; 2 were found in San Diego waters in early September. A Magnificent Frigatebird was over Los Angeles in early August. Single Reddish Egrets were at Bolsa Chica in late July and in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Cos. in early August; two were in Ventura Co. mid-month. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron visited Alameda Co. in July. Two Glossy Ibis were on the Salton Sea in July and August, followed by a Roseate Spoonbill in early September. Single Crested Caracaras visited the Monterey Bay area and Carmel in mid-July; one in Humboldt Co. was observed dining on river otter. An apparently pure American Oystercatcher spent late August in San Diego. A Piping Plover lingered at the Salton Sea from early August into September. A Black-necked Stilt in late August provided only the second fall record for Southeast Farallon Island. A Willet provided a first Madera Co. record in early September. A bird identified as an adult Little Stint was photographed in Santa Clara Co. in mid-July. An adult Red-necked Stint was said to have been photographed in Del Norte Co. in early August. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found on Monterey Bay in late August. Single Bar-tailed Godwits in Fort Bragg and Mendocino Co. in mid-August were followed by another in San Mateo Co. in early September. Rare away from the Salton Sea, a Yellow-footed Gull was at the mouth of the Tijuana River in late July. A Horned Puffin in Mendocino Co. in July and early August was one more in this year's string of summer occurrences. An Inca Dove continued into early September in Marin Co. Up to 3 Chimney Swifts were in Big Sur in late July and August.

An Eastern Kingbird visited Sonoma Co. in late August. A Connecticut Warbler was on Southeast Farallon Island in early September. A male Lark Bunting visited Point Lobos State Park in late July. A badly worn male Yellow Grosbeak in Inyo Co. in late July and early August showed a bill deformity similar to that of the bird that wintered in Albuquerque, NM, in 2005.

Northwest

Gambell recorded its second fall record for Mallard in late August. A female-plumaged Garganey was reported from Vancouver in early August. Up to 6 Steller's Eiders were on St. Paul Island, AK, in late July and August. Two Manx/Black-vented Shearwaters

passed Cape Flattery in late July. A well-photographed **Blue-footed Booby** in early August on Samish Island will be WA's first in more than 70 years if accepted. Another **Blue-footed Booby** was found dead in OR in late August. A heron reported as a white-morph Great Blue Heron was in Calgary in August. Single Snowy Egrets were at WA's Potholes Reservoir and Nisqually NWR in mid-August. The fall migration at Gambell had produced 4 Lesser Sand-Plovers and a Common Ringed Plover by early September. AB birders located four sites with possibly breeding Black-necked Stilts around Calgary. Four Gray-tailed Tattlers in early September set a new one-day record for Gambell. A **Curlew Sandpiper** was at MT's Freezout WMA for one day in mid-August; a juvenile Curlew Sandpiper at Gambell in mid-August was notably early. An adult Little Stint was photographed in Vancouver, BC, in July, and another was reported from eastern WA in early August. A Long-toed Stint at Gambell in mid-August was the second fall record for the northern Bering Sea. Three late-July Sanderlings were unusual in eastern WA. Casual in the Bering Sea, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Gambell in early September. Three Bristle-thighed Curlews were a Gambell highlight in late August. A Bar-tailed Godwit was in Pacific Co., WA, in late July. A Gray-tailed Tattler was on St. Paul Island in July and August. A Black-tailed Gull was in Anchorage, AK, in late June. Two **Long-billed Murrelets** were reported west of Brookings, OR, in early August. Six hundred thousand Crested Auklets passed Gambell in 2 hours in late August. A **Horned Puffin** was seen in Seattle in mid-August. A Snowy Owl photographed in Bonner Co., ID, in late August was unexpected at the date. A **Common Ground-Dove** was photographed in western OR in early August. A surprising **Common Nighthawk** appeared at Gambell in early August. An immature male Costa's Hummingbird was reported from a feeder in Deschutes Co., OR, in mid-July.

Rare on Vancouver Island, 2 Clark's Nutcrackers were near Victoria, BC, in late August. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at Gambell in late August, where near-record numbers of Northern Wheatears were also noted. Two Eurasian Starlings flew over Fairbanks, AK, in late July. A Blue-winged Warbler in Douglas Co., WA, provided a second state record in early August. Early September found a Magnolia Warbler in Lincoln Co. and 2 Blackpoll Warblers in Grant Co., WA. A copulating pair of Blue Grosbeaks provided a first breeding record for MT in mid-July. A male Indigo Bunting was at BC's Vaseux Lake in late August. A **Painted Bunting** was visiting a MT feeder in mid-August. Before this summer, MT had had only 17 total confirmed reports of Dickcissel; more than twice that many were recorded in the state this year. A **Smith's Longspur** well photographed near Seattle in late August will be a first record for WA if accepted. A Common Grackle was near Portland, OR, in late July; a Great-tailed Grackle was at Steens Reservoir in that state at the same time. Seattle's Hooded Oriole, one of 3 in WA this year, lingered into mid-July. A White-winged Crossbill was on St. Paul Island, AK, in July, while a Pine Siskin appeared at Gambell in early September.