

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

Mid-September to November

PHENOMENA: “Siberian” migrants made headlines, in Alaska and elsewhere. Shemya Island birders discovered 3 Garganeys, 3 Baikal Teal, and a Lesser Sand-Plover, Gray-tailed Tattler, and Common Snipe in late September. A Garganey was reported from central Nebraska in October. A late-September cruise to Attu produced a Baikal Teal and a Spotted Redshank. An apparent “Kamchatka” Mew Gull in late September was the third fall record for Gambell. A Siberian Accentor and a Pechora Pipit were at Gambell in September. A Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*, recently split from Red-breasted Flycatcher) photographed in Solano Co., CA, in late October will be North America’s first mainland record if accepted. A Red-flanked Bluetail at Gambell in late September was the first north of the Pribilofs. A male Siberian Rubythroat was photographed at Gambell in mid-September. The Attu cruisers discovered a Yellow-browed Warbler; an astonishing report of that species came from Milwaukee, WI, in late October, a first for mainland North America if accepted. A bird thought to be an Arctic Warbler was reported from CA’s Arcata Bottoms in mid-October. Up to 2 Rustic Buntings near Juneau, AK, in late October and early November were very unusual for the mainland. A Pallas’s Bunting—North America’s fifth—was photographed at Gambell in late September, where it shared top billing with the star of the season: the continent’s first-ever Pallas’s Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*).

Southeast

A Ross’s Goose was in Gwinnett Co., GA, in October. A female-plumaged Common Eider appeared at GA’s Tybee Island mid-October. A Pacific Loon was in Monroe Co., GA, in late October. A Yellow-nosed Albatross was at LA’s Holly Beach in late September. An apparent Cape Verde Shearwater photographed in MD waters in mid-October will be a second record for North America if accepted. Volusia Co., FL’s, Masked Booby continued through October; a Brown Booby was in the same county in mid-September. A “Great White” Heron continued in MD into late October. A Roseate Spoonbill persisted into mid-October in inland Union Co., NC. A Limpkin was photographed in Wayne Co., GA, in late September. A Hudsonian Godwit was observed in Leon Co., FL, in early September. A Purple Sandpiper was in Nassau Co., FL, in early November. One or 2 Franklin’s Gulls were in Dorchester Co., MD, in September and October, while a Sabine’s Gull visited that state’s Conowingo Dam in late September. A Black-legged Kittiwake was photographed at GA’s Tybee Island in late October. A Eurasian Collared-Dove was notable in Frederick Co., MD, in October, while the state’s first Inca Dove was photographed in early November. A Groove-billed

Ani was in Franklin Co., FL, in early October. A Burrowing Owl was briefly in Bossier Par., LA, in early October. A state first if accepted, a Black-chinned Hummingbird arrived in WV in late October.

A Hammond’s Flycatcher was identified in Pinellas Co., FL, in late October. FL *Myiarchus* included an Ash-throated Flycatcher at St. Marks NWR and a Brown-crested Flycatcher in Palm Beach Co., both in late October. Single Bell’s Vireos were in Franklin Co., FL, in late September, and in Miami-Dade Co. in October. A bird reported as a probable Thick-billed Vireo in Pinellas Co., FL, in mid-October, will be a remarkable west coast record if accepted. One of 2 Cave Swallows in TN in late September was photographed; 3 were at GA’s Jekyll Island in mid-October, while reports from the Carolinas later in the month included a flock of more than 200. A *Progne martin*—thought not to be a Purple Martin—in MD at the end of October remained unidentified at press time. FL tallied 2 Northern Wheatears in September. Single Black-throated Gray Warblers visited Miami-Dade Co., FL, and Murray Co., GA, in September and October. A male Kirtland’s Warbler was in FL’s Kissimmee SP in late October. A female MacGillivray’s Warbler was reported in FL’s Miami-Dade Co. in early October. Two Western Tanagers arrived in Pinellas Co., FL, in late September; a male was in New Orleans in mid-October. A male Shiny Cowbird was at GA’s Altamaha WMA in late October. An adult male Bullock’s Oriole stopped briefly in Rock Creek Park, DC, in mid-October. A Common Redpoll was reported from DeKalb Co., GA, in late October.

Northeast

Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks flew past Cape May in early October. An apparent “Gray-bellied” Brant was at Plymouth, MA, in late October. A drake Cinnamon Teal was in Delaware in late September. The first two Tufted Ducks of the winter arrived in NL in late October. A Pacific Loon was reported from southern ME in early October. An Eared Grebe was on Cape Ann, MA, in late September. A Magnificent Frigatebird flew over MA’s Tuckernuck Island in mid-October, while an unidentified frigatebird flew over Cape May end of the month. A Brown Pelican spent several October days in Boston. A fresh White-tailed Tropicbird was salvaged at St. John’s, NL, in mid-September. The NH/ME Western Reef-Heron was last reported in late September. A Swallow-tailed Kite over Cape Miquelon in late September will be a third record for St. Pierre and Miquelon if accepted. Single Gyrfalcons were on Block Island, RI, and at South Dartmouth, MA, in October. A Yellow Rail was at Plum Island in early October. An immature Purple Gallinule spent the first half of October in Lehigh Co., PA. Two or 3 American Avocets were in Essex Co., MA, in mid-September, with another on Cape Cod; another was in Rhode Island in early October. A Common Ringed-Plover was on NL

in mid-September. A Wilson's Plover was at NJ's Brigantine NWR in mid-October. A beautifully photographed juvenile Curlew Sandpiper spent much of October at Long Beach, NL. An adult Yellow-legged Gull arrived at St. John's, NL, in late September. The season's first Common (Mew) Gull arrived in NL in mid-October; a first-cycle Mew Gull was in NS in late October. A late-September Sabine's Gull in VT was said to be only the 7th record in that state in 18 years, while a juvenile at Cape Henlopen in early October will be only the 3rd for DE if accepted. A South Polar Skua was off Brier Island, NS, in late September. A Black Skimmer was reported from south coastal ME in mid-October. A hurricane-driven Least Tern in NL in mid-September will be that province's second if accepted. A White-winged Dove was in Cape May in mid-September. Ottawa-area birders found notable numbers of Black-backed and American Three-toed Woodpeckers in early November.

A **Gray Flycatcher** was photographed in eastern MA in early November. Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were reported from Block Island, RI, in late September. A **Gray Kingbird** spent a late-September day at NJ's Sandy Hook. A **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** stopped briefly in Cape May in mid-October. A Bell's Vireo banded in MA in mid-September represents that state's second record. Cave Swallow reports were well below normal for recent years, with 3 in CT and only 1 at Cape May in late Oct and early November. A strong showing by Northern Wheatears in September and October brought some 40 birds to the region, 12 of them in NS. Early October saw a Sedge Wren in Bergen Co., NJ, and a western-race House Wren on Seal Island, NS. A Golden-winged Warbler was at Cape Spear, NL, in late September. A **Virginia's Warbler** in late September on Monhegan Island will be a second record for ME if accepted, while another in RI in October will be that state's first. A Yellow-throated Warbler visited NL in early October. A Black-throated Gray Warbler was photographed in northern NJ in late September, followed by a Townsend's Warbler at Brigantine NWR in early October. A female-plumaged Painted Bunting visited eastern Long Island in mid-October; a first-year Painted Bunting was netted at MA's Manomet Bird Observatory in late October. A Green-tailed Towhee banded at Plum Island, MA, in late October was still being seen in early November. Single Le Conte's Sparrows visited RI, MA, and Sullivan Co., NY, in late October. Single Harris's Sparrows were reported in early October at Sandy Hook, NJ, and at Fort Tilden, NY. Sandy Hook also hosted a Le Conte's Sparrow in late October.

Midwest

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Jamestown, ND, in September will be a first state record if accepted. Two Brant vis-

ited Clay Co., IA, in mid-October. Black Scoters made an impressive showing in NE in October, with one flock of 20 a new high count for the state. Five late-October Harlequin Ducks at Fargo set a record count for ND. A Yellow-billed Loon was reported from Day Co., SD, in early October. A Red-necked Grebe was in Lancaster Co., NE, in late October. A **Northern Gannet** flew past MI's Lake Erie Metropark in early November. A Tricolored Heron visited ND's Lake Alice NWR in late September. A state-record 61 Snowy Egrets were in a single flock in NE's Rainwater Basin in early October. A second state record if accepted, a **Reddish Egret** was photographed at IN's Miller Beach in September. A September White-tailed Kite in Jefferson Co., KS, was the third documented for that state. A Yellow Rail in Milwaukee in late October was record-late for WI. A Black Rail was reported from Chicago in late October. A flock of nearly 300 American Golden-Plover in the Rainwater Basin in October set an autumn record for NE. A juvenile **Purple Sandpiper** in Cass Co., MN, in mid-September was nearly a month earlier than any of that state's 4 previous records. Single Laughing Gulls visited St. Louis and Squaw Creek NWR, MO, in September, and Lancaster Co., NE, in October; two Laughing Gulls and a **Mew Gull** were in Marion Co., IA, in late September. Single Mew Gulls were at Garrison Dam and in Bismarck and in Ward Co., ND, in October; the Bismarck bird was in the company of 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. The long-lingering Black-headed Gull on the IA/MN border continued into October. Single Little Gulls visited Appanoose Co., IA, and Lancaster Co., NE, in October. One to 2 Arctic Terns were reported from Duluth and WI's Superior Entry in mid-September; another was in Platte Co., NE, in late September. One or possibly 2 **Ancient Murrelets** were on MI's Lake Superior in late October. A White-winged Dove was at IL Beach State Park in early October, while an impressive 116—a sign of things to come—were tallied in a Garden City, KS, yard. A Burrowing Owl was on a Scott Co., IA, sod farm in mid-September. A Great Gray



White-tailed Tropicbird, Newfoundland. © Ken Knowles.

Owl in mid-September in Cheboygan SP, MI, was thought possibly to have been hatched nearby. A **Green Violet-ear** in northwest IA in mid-September will be that state's second record if accepted. Northern MN saw a significant incursion of Black-backed and American Three-toed Woodpeckers beginning in early October.

A male Vermilion Flycatcher visited Marquette Co., MI, in early November. A Say's Phoebe was on IL's Lake Michigan lakefront in late September. North Dakota birders tallied at least 6 Gray Jays in October, while large numbers were found in northern MN. A Varied Thrush was in Carrington, ND, in late September. Single Mountain Bluebirds appeared in at least 3 MN locations in mid-October. Casual in the state, a

Sprague's Pipit was in Clay Co., IA, in mid-October. Casual in ND, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in Fargo in mid-September. A Pine Warbler was in Lincoln Co., NE, in mid-October. A late-October Black-throated Green Warbler in Fargo, ND, was notably late. A Townsend's Warbler photographed in Milwaukee in late October will be a second record for WI if accepted. A Green-tailed Towhee was in Michigan's Marquette Co. in early November. A male *tephrocotis* Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch in Greely Co., KS, in late October will be a first for that state if accepted.

Texas

A juvenile Reddish Egret wandered to Austin in early October. Three apparently unbanded Greater Flamingos were at the TOS Magic Ridge sanctuary on the central coast in late September. The Weslaco Northern Jacana continued into early November. A Greater Pewee was documented from Big Bend in late September. A **Gray Kingbird** reported from Corpus Christi in late October will be the state's sixth if accepted.

Southwest

A Eurasian Wigeon was at AZ's Gilbert Water Ranch in late October. Scoters were unusually numerous in CO this fall; single Surf Scoters were in Tucson and at at least 2 NM sites in late October, while a Black Scoter was notable in Sandoval Co., NM. Late October found a Red-throated Loon in Arapahoe Co., CO, and a Yellow-billed Loon in Park Co., CO. A Brown Pelican wandered Larimer and Weld Cos., CO, throughout the period. The Phoenix Little Blue Heron was still present in late October. At least one Tricolored Heron spent October in the Tucson area. The Chaves Co., NM, Reddish Egret was still present in late October. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was in Union Co., NM, in mid-October. A Roseate Spoonbill flew over Tres Rios, AZ, in mid-September. A Red-shouldered Hawk (said to be of the subspecies *elegans*) was seen in Eddy Co., NM, several times in September. Up to 3 Short-tailed Hawks were seen in AZ's Chiricahuas in September. A **Common Black-Hawk** spent 2 weeks in September in Canon City, CO. An unbanded **Aplomado Falcon** was in southern NM in mid-October. A Laughing Gull visited Eddy Co., NM, in September; another was in Weld Co., CO, in mid-October. A Little Gull was in Kiowa Co., CO, in late October. A White-eared Hummingbird was in AZ's Madera Canyon in late September. At least 3 apparent Red-breasted Sapsuckers visited Tucson in October.

An Eastern Kingbird was north of Tucson in mid-September. Bent Co., CO, hosted a Blue-headed Vireo in late October.



Laughing Gull, Nebraska. © Joel Jorgensen.

Single Wood Thrushes were in Weld and Adams Cos., CO, in mid-October. At least 1 Aztec Thrush lingered into October in Madera Canyon. A notable haul of "eastern" parulids in AZ in September included a **Worm-eating Warbler** in Flagstaff, single Tennessee Warblers in Tucson and in the White Mountains, a Palm Warbler at Gilbert Water Ranch, a Black-throated

Green Warbler on the Santa Cruz River, and a Blackpoll Warbler on the lower Colorado River; October brought a Prothonotary Warbler to the Santa Cruz River, 2 Northern Parulas in Phoenix, individual Magnolia Warblers at Gilbert and Tolle-son, a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Tres Rios, an Ovenbird in Tucson, and single Kentucky Warblers at Gilbert and in the Chiricahuas. A Black-throated Blue Warbler in Sandoval Co., NM, in early October was followed mid-month by a Blackburnian Warbler at that state's Mel-

rose migrant trap; another Blackburnian was in Pueblo Co., CO, in late October. A Black-throated Blue was in Boulder Co., CO, in mid-October. Single Painted Buntings were late at 3 southeast AZ sites in October. A Le Conte's Sparrow was in Bent Co., CO, in late October. A Lapland Longspur was in Maricopa Co., AZ, in mid-October. A late Hooded Oriole continued into October in central Phoenix. An adult male **Streak-backed Oriole**, thought to be the same bird as last year, shared AZ's Gilbert Water Ranch with a female **Orchard Oriole** in early November.

California

Up to 5 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were reported from Tulare Co. in early November. A Yellow-billed Loon was in Eureka in late September. A Reddish Egret was in northwest San Luis Obispo Co. in September; at least 3 were in the San Diego area late in the month. A Little Blue Heron lingered through October in Del Norte Co. As many as 5 Roseate Spoonbills were at the Salton Sea in late October. Three Brown Boobies were on SE Farallon Island in September and October, and up to 3 were sporadic at the mouth of the Tijuana River in October and November; another was seen on a Monterey Bay pelagic trip in mid-October. Up to 3 Blue-footed Boobies were still in Imperial Co. in October. Single Masked and Red-footed Boobies were photographed on the same boat trip off Los Angeles in mid-October. Monterey Bay pelagic trips recorded Manx, Flesh-footed, and 2 **Streaked Shearwaters** in September and October; a record 31 Flesh-footed Shearwaters were observed on a late-October trip. A juvenile Mississippi Kite was in Imperial Beach in early September. Goleta's Zone-tailed Hawk returned for a 14th winter; a flyover Zone-tailed Hawk was in Orange Co. in mid-October. A Crested Caracara lingered in

San Diego's Tijuana River Valley; another was in the Monterey Bay area in October. An American Oystercatcher continued through October at Point Loma. A Wilson's Plover was at Imperial Beach in mid-October; the Piping Plover was refound at the Salton Sea in late October. Single **Upland Sandpipers** visited the Los Angeles River in late September and Ventura Co. in late October. A Heermann's Gull and an Arctic Tern were in Imperial Co. in mid-October, followed by an adult Black-legged Kittiwake end of the month. A **Ruddy Ground-Dove** was photographed in Los Angeles Co. in mid-October. A Burrowing Owl was at Point Pinos in late October. A first for San Diego Co., an adult male Broad-tailed Hummingbird visited a feeder in mid-September. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was well photographed in San Luis Obispo Co. in October. A White-headed Woodpecker visited San Luis Obispo Co. in late September.

One Alder and 2 eastern-race Willow Flycatchers were banded on Southeast Farallon Island in September. As expected, Tropical Kingbirds appeared along the coast as far north as San Francisco Co. in September and October. A Thick-billed Kingbird returned to winter in Los Angeles Co. A Great Crested Flycatcher was banded at Big Sur in mid-October. Single Yellow-green Vireos appeared in San Diego, in San Luis Obispo Co, and at Point Reyes in late September. Single Blue-headed Vireos were reported from Redwood NP and from Mad River Co. Park in mid-September. A Pygmy Nuthatch on Southeast Farallon Island in September was the first there in nearly 40 years. A Wood Thrush lingered into early October in Inyo Co. Single Red-throated Pipits were in Del Norte Co. in late September and near San Diego in late October. A female Golden-winged Warbler visited San Luis Obispo Co. in late September. A Grace's Warbler was at Point Loma in late September. A Kentucky Warbler was in San Diego in late September. A Northern Waterthrush in San Benito Co. in mid-September was the second there in 50 years. A Canada Warbler was singing in San Diego in mid-September; another was at the Tijuana River in late October. A Mourning and 2 Connecticut Warblers were recorded on Southeast Farallon Island in mid-September; a Connecticut was reported from Humboldt Co.'s Shay Park in mid-September. A Painted Redstart was in San Diego in mid-September; another returned to winter in Los Angeles Co. An immature Painted Bunting was in the San Diego River valley in mid-September. An American Tree Sparrow was found in Sonoma Co. in late October. An adult male **Streak-backed Ori-**

ole discovered in October in eastern San Bernardino Co. lingered to mid-month. A male Baltimore Oriole in San Diego in late October was thought to be a returning bird from last year.

Northwest

A Pacific and a Yellow-billed Loon were in north-central WY in late October. The Attu cruise tallied more than a dozen Short-tailed Albatrosses in late September. Single Manx Shearwaters were off Newport, OR, in late September, and off Boiler Bay in mid-October. 1.6 million Short-tailed Shearwaters passed Gambell, AK, on a single mid-September day. A Bar-tailed Godwit was near Victoria, BC, in mid-September. A juvenile Hudsonian Godwit was at Boundary Bay, BC, in mid-September. A Curlew Sandpiper was at Coos Bay, OR, in mid-September. A juvenile Red-necked Stint was photographed on OR's Siuslaw River in early October. Notable inland, a juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was in Calgary in late September. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Valley Co., MT, in September were said to be among only 20 records for that state. A bird identified as an adult Iceland Gull was in BC's Okanagan Valley in late September. An adult male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was photographed in northeast OR in mid-September. A White-headed Woodpecker was in BC's Okanagan Valley in mid-October.

A Philadelphia Vireo was near Victoria, BC, in mid-September; one at Gambell in mid-September was AK's fourth and the first for the Bering Sea region. Steller's Jays staged a notable invasion into the Yukon Southern Lakes region, with more than 90 birds reported in September and October. One or 2 Blue Jays were in Victoria, BC, in mid-October. A Curve-billed Thrasher photographed in MT will be that state's first if accepted. Attu cruisers discovered the first Red-breasted Nuthatch for the Aleutians in late September. A Nashville Warbler, casual in WY, visited Jackson Hole in a late-September snow-



Hepburn's Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, British Columbia. © Mike Yip.

storm. A Prairie Warbler was seen at OR's Siuslaw River in late September. Early October saw a male Northern Parula, a Black-throated Blue Warbler, and a female Canada Warbler on Vancouver Island, BC. A Harris's Sparrow in Barrow, AK, in late September was captured and consumed by a Northern Shrike. Portland, OR, birders found a Chestnut-collared Longspur in late October and a bright female Hooded Oriole in early November. A *littoralis* Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch photographed near Victoria, BC, in late October was the area's first in 10 years.