

DECEMBER 2006 TO EARLY JANUARY 2007

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

Southeast

A Common (Green-winged) Teal was in *Wakulla*, FL, in early Jan. *Brevard*, FLs, Masked Duck was joined by a second bird in mid-Dec; at least one was still present at the end of the year. A Western Grebe was in *Henry*, AL, through Dec. Single Red-footed and Brown Boobies were reported from Dry Tortugas NP in early Jan. An extremely late Sabine's Gull was in KY in late Dec. An **Inca Dove** in Huntington, WV, in Dec will be a first state record if accepted. WV's adult female Black-chinned Hummingbird remained true to its feeder through mid-Dec. A female Broad-tailed Hummingbird, said to be the state's 7th, banded in *Cobb*, GA, continued into Jan. An immature male Calliope Hummingbird was in NC in mid-Dec, while a female was banded in *Leon*, FL, in Dec; GA feeders hosted no fewer than 3 Calliopes, including 2 females in *DeKalb* and 1 adult male in Savannah.

A Brown-crested Flycatcher was heard and seen in *Miami-Dade*, FL, in late Dec. A **Tropical Kingbird** was in *Somerset*, MD, at the turn of the year. A male black-backed Western Spindalis, probably nominate *zena*, appeared in FL's *Miami-Dade* in mid-Dec. An adult male Western Tanager was in *Leon*, FL, in early Jan. An adult male Bullock's Oriole in (appropriately) *Bulloch*, GA, in late Dec may have been the same bird that wintered last year, while a female appeared at a *Leon*, FL, feeder in early Jan.

Northeast

A Black Brant returned to NJ's North Shore in late Dec. Two **Pink-footed Geese** photographed in early Jan in *Newport* will be the first for RI if accepted as wild. A Ross's Goose seen at several CT sites in Dec will be a first state record if accepted. Single Western Grebes were at MA's Plum Island and in coastal CT in early Jan. An adult Purple Gallinule was a surprise on the Barnegat, NJ, CBC in late Dec. If definitively identified, a possible **Slaty-backed Gull** photographed in NH in early Jan will be a second for that state; two adult Slaty-backs visited Newfoundland's Quidi Vidi Lake in Dec and Jan. A Mew Gull was on Cape Ann, MA, in early Jan. A Thayer's Gull lingered on Cape Cod into early Jan. A Mew Gull and a California Gull were on the Niagara River, ON, in early Jan. A Razorbill continued into

early Jan at the mouth of ON's Niagara River.

A Say's Phoebe was discovered on the Antigonish, NS, CBC. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was in northern NJ into early Jan. The St. John's, NL, **Redwing** was still present in early Jan. A late-Dec Black-throated Green Warbler was tardy in Ottawa. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was at a western MA feeder in early Dec, with another in ME mid-month. A Black-throated Gray Warbler was noted in southern NJ. A Yellow-throated Warbler was wintering in central ME. Single Western Tanagers were in NJ, CT, and NS, while as many as 3 were in eastern MA in mid-Dec. A Harris's Sparrow visited Rochester, NY. Dec and early Jan found 2 Painted Buntings in DE, with individuals also found in PA, CT, and ME. A female **Lazuli Bunting** photographed in CT in early January will be a first state record if a hybrid can be ruled out. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was in NS in late Dec.



Apparent Lazuli Bunting, Connecticut. Photo © Tom Sayers.



Greater Pewee, Texas. Photo © Brandon Percival.



Redwing, Newfoundland. Photo © Dave Brown.

Midwest

A Baird's Sandpiper in *Holt*, MO, in mid-Dec was remarkably late, as was a Spotted Sandpiper on the Dayton, OH, CBC. Especially notable in winter, a Laughing Gull was in *Lake*, IL, in early Jan. An adult Slaty-backed Gull spent 10 days in Dec in *Pottawattamie*, IA, a second state record pending acceptance. A juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake was in central IA in early Jan. A dead Ancient Murrelet was found in MT in late Nov. An apparent **Red-breasted Sapsucker** was photographed in western IA in mid-Dec. MN's Gray Jay incursion continued. A Western Tanager spent Dec in central OH. An out-of-place Lark Bunting was in Duluth in mid-Dec. A Green-tailed Towhee attending a *Cottonwood*, MN, feeder in early Jan had been banded at ON's Thunder Cape Bird Observatory in June. An Indigo Bunting was photographed in central IA in early Jan. A Baltimore Oriole was at an *Olmsted*, MN, feeder in late Dec. Three *tephrocotis* Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were in *St. Louis*, MN, as late as early Jan. A Hepburn's (*littoralis*) Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was in *Barnes*, ND, in late Dec.

Texas

A report of a possible Black-tailed Gull was received from Galveston in mid-Dec. A Little Gull was at Lake Ray Hubbard in Dec and Jan. A Mew Gull and an adult Black-headed Gull were at Lake Lewisville in early Jan. An Iceland Gull moved between El Paso

and adjacent NM in early Jan. A male Costa's Hummingbird visited a feeder in *Parker* in late Dec.

A Greater Pewee was photographed in the Davis Mountains in early Jan. Two Townsend's Warblers and a Hermit Warbler are wintering at Anzalduas Co. Park. Two Gray-crowned Yellowthroats had returned to Sabal Palm by late Dec. A **Snow Bunting** discovered in *Denton* in late Dec was still present in early Jan.

Southwest

A female Long-tailed Duck visited Tucson in late Dec. The long-staying Reddish Egret in *Chaves*, NM, was reported to have an injured foot in late Dec. A Least Grebe was at AZ's Patagonia Lake in early Jan. A Crested Caracara was in *Hidalgo*, NM, in late Dec. An apparent Lesser Black-backed Gull in *Maricopa* in mid-Dec will be a first for AZ if accepted. Single adult Mew Gulls were in *Sierra* and *Doña Ana*, NM, in late Dec. A first state record if accepted, NM's **Iceland Gull** lingered to late Dec in *Doña Ana*. An apparent adult Western Gull was photographed in *Salt Lake*, UT, in Dec, a first state record if accepted. Scarce this year, 2 Ruddy Ground-Doves were in *Hidalgo*, NM, in early Jan.

Unusual in winter, an adult male Rose-throated Becard was at Patagonia, AZ, in late Dec. AZ's first **Couch's Kingbird** was discovered and recorded in *Yuma* in mid-Jan. An apparent **Long-billed Thrasher** well photographed New Year's Day in AZ's Chiricahua Mountains will be another state first if accepted. A Pine Warbler was in AZ's Patagonia Mountains in early Jan. A Worm-eating Warbler continued south of Tucson in early Jan. As many as 6 Clay-colored Sparrows were wintering on the upper San Pedro River in AZ. Two Common Grackles were notable in southeast AZ in late Dec. Lawrence's Goldfinches were noted as far east as *Hidalgo* and *Grant*, NM.

California

A Tundra Swan visited *San Diego* in mid-Dec. "Big Al," *Mendocino's* Laysan Albatross, was reported to have broken a leg in late Dec but to otherwise be in good health. A female Brown Booby continued into the new year in *Monterey*. The continuing Little Blue Heron was noted on the *Del Norte* CBC in mid-Dec. A Tricolored Heron was reported from the Salton Sea in late Dec. Single Crested Caracaras continued in *San Diego* and *Monterey* to late Dec. An American Oystercatcher continued on Pt. Loma, while that or another was reported at La Jolla in early Jan. The *Los Angeles* Rock Sandpiper continued into Jan. An adult and a 3rd-cycle Slaty-backed Gull were in *Humboldt* in late Dec; an adult was at Half Moon Bay in early Jan. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull continues at the Salton Sea. A 1st-cycle Iceland Gull, said to be

apparently of the nominate race, was reported from *Humboldt* in early Jan. A **Snowy Owl** discovered in *Solano's* Grizzly Bay in late Dec was still present in early Jan.

A Thick-billed Kingbird was wintering in *Los Angeles*. The San Joaquin Red-throated Pipit was last reported in late Dec. A Worm-eating Warbler was in *Orange* in early Jan. *San Diego* hosted a Pine Warbler in Jan. A Painted Redstart and a Black-throated Green Warbler were wintering in *Santa Barbara*, while 3 or more Painted Redstarts continued in *Los Angeles*. A Yellow-throated Warbler (apparently *dominica*, as are ca. 50% of winter records) was wintering in *Orange*. More than 50 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were in *Santa Barbara* in late Dec.

Northwest

A **Whooper Swan** was photographed in Snohomish, WA, in late Dec; an adult Emperor Goose continued nearby into Jan. An immature male King Eider appeared in *Whatcom*, WA, in mid-Dec. A Yellow-billed Loon photographed in *Cascade*, MT, will be that state's sixth if accepted. Three Iceland and single Mew and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were in BC's Okanagan Valley in Dec. A Black-headed Gull appeared at WA's Bainbridge Island in mid-Dec. A Long-billed Murrelet was reported in *King*, WA, in mid-Dec. A Thick-billed Murre was off *Kitsap*, WA, in mid-Dec. A Band-tailed Pigeon in *Walla Walla*, WA, in mid-Dec was that county's first for 26 years.

A Chestnut-backed Chickadee was reported from Calgary in Dec. A Bewick's Wren discovered on the Kelowna, BC, CBC was still present in early Jan; two found in Dec in central MT will be that state's 7th and 8th if accepted. A Curve-billed Thrasher was in SK in mid-Dec; single *oberholseri* Curve-bills were at 2 MT sites in early Jan, while an unusual Brown Thrasher was tallied on the Bozeman CBC. A late-Dec Lincoln's Sparrow was discovered on the Fairbanks, AK, CBC. A Green-tailed Towhee was near Bozeman, MT, in late Dec. A Gray-headed Junco (*caniceps*) photographed in *King*, WA, in late Dec was said to be the first documented in that state. A male Hooded Oriole visited a western OR feeder in mid-Dec.

Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has awarded a nearly \$400,000 grant to the Manomet (Massachusetts) Center for Conservation Sciences in support of its programs addressing the decline of shorebird populations in the Western Hemisphere.

The conservation activities will be conducted by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, a coalition of conservation organizations protecting more than 21,000,000 acres at 64 sites in eight nations. The Foundation's grant funds will be matched by Manomet and other non-governmental organizations for a total investment of more than \$750,000.

These funds will be used by the WSHRN to strengthen partnerships, protect key habitats, and improve the scope and pace of habitat conservation at each protected site. Among the species to benefit from the grant are Mountain Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, and Western Sandpiper, all species of high concern; land will be protected in Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil in an effort to stem population losses and to create a base for rebuilding populations. Habitat use by Red Knots will be assessed in Patagonia in order to identify key stopover sites there.

This is the third year in which Manomet and its partners have received Foundation funds supporting WSHRN programs. The accomplishments of the first two years of grant support include the protection of 7,900 acres in Mexico for wintering Long-billed Curlew and Mountain Plover, the creation of agreements with ranch owners in Uruguay and Argentina to implement "shorebird-friendly" grazing practices to benefit wintering Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and the continued monitoring of endangered Red Knots during their north-bound migration along the coast of Patagonia.

To learn more about Manomet Center for Conservation Science and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, visit www.manomet.org and www.whsrn.org. Since its establishment in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (www.nfwf.org) has made over 8,000 grants and leveraged more than \$340 million in federal funds in support of maximum conservation impact using best practices and innovative methods for measurable outcomes.