

## FEBRUARY TO EARLY MARCH

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

### Southeast

A Tufted Duck returned for a second winter to AR. A male Harlequin Duck appeared at NC's Lake Brandt in mid-Feb. A Common Eider was roosting on GA's St. Simon's Island in late Feb. A Pacific Loon was on Tybee Island, GA, in early Feb. A Red-necked Grebe was at GA's Clarks Hill Lake in early Mar, while AR birders in Feb discovered an *Aechmophorus* grebe that was either a Clark's or a hybrid. A Little Gull seen off GA's Tybee Island in mid-Feb will be that state's 4th or 5th if accepted. A first-winter Iceland Gull was in Lawrence, AL, while a California Gull visited King George, VA, in mid-Feb. An Anna's Hummingbird banded in AR in mid-Feb will be that state's 6th.

A Hammond's Flycatcher discovered mid-Feb in Orange, FL, continued into early Mar. A Loggerhead Kingbird photographed on Key West in early Mar will be a first ABA-area record if accepted. More than one million Tree Swallows were recorded at a coastal GA roost in Feb. The Baldwin, AL, Northern Wheatear continued into early Mar. A Virginia's Warbler appeared at a WV suet feeder in mid-Feb. A Western Tanager visited a NC feeder in Feb. The male black-backed Western Spindalis was relocated in Miami-Dade, FL, in mid-Feb; the Broward green-backed male was also present into mid-Feb. A Green-tailed Towhee was at a Carroll, VA, feeder in mid-Feb, and a Spotted Towhee was in Franklin, FL, in early Mar. A Western Meadowlark continued in Escambia, FL, in mid-Feb. A male Baltimore Oriole waited out a Feb cold spell in MD, while a Scott's Oriole in KY will provide a first state record if accepted. A male Bullock's Oriole and a female Western Tanager frequented a Laurens, GA, feeder in mid-Feb.

### Northeast

RI's 2 Pink-footed Geese continued into early Mar. A mid-Feb Barnacle

Goose in Cape May will be reviewed by the NJ records committee; another was in RI in late Feb. A drake Tufted Duck was in VT in late Feb. A nesting pair of Bald Eagles in Philadelphia were said to be the first breeding in the city in two centuries.



Loggerhead Kingbird, Florida.  
Photo © John Boyd.



Northern Wheatear, Alabama. Photo © Steve McConnell.



Ivory Gull, New York. Photo © Angus Wilson.

A Pacific Loon was off MA's Cape Ann in early Mar, with another photographed in Mar in northern NJ. An *Aechmophorus* grebe near Toronto in early Mar was widely believed to be a Clark's x Western hybrid. An adult Mew Gull at NJ's Spruce Run Reservoir in early Mar will be a first state record if accepted. An adult Thayer's Gull visited NI's Portugal Cove in early Mar, while two Slaty-backed Gulls continued at Quidi Vidi Lake; another Slaty-backed Gull was present throughout the period in Sullivan, NY. Single Ivory Gulls were at NI's Portugal Cove and Cape Bonavista in early Mar; notably far south was an adult in Rockland, NY, in late Feb. A White-winged Dove in CT in early Mar showed bill and foot damage possibly suggesting recent captivity.

A Varied Thrush was present in Niagara, NY, in mid-Feb. The wintering Townsend's Warbler in eastern MA was still present in early Mar; a nearby Wilson's Warbler lasted into mid-Feb. A Western Tanager was in NS in mid-Feb. A fine male Lazuli Bunting photographed in Montgomery, PA, in early Mar will be that state's 3rd if accepted. A Le Conte's Sparrow was in Salem, NJ, in late Feb. NS's 8th, a Harris's Sparrow was seen in mid-Feb. A Smith's Longspur was photographed at NY's Jones Beach in Feb. Possibly the first for the region, a male Scott's Oriole discovered at a Cumberland, PA, feeder in late Feb was still present in early Mar.

### Midwest

A pair of Harlequin Ducks in Scott, IA, in Feb represented that state's 5th record, the first ever of a male. A Gyrfalcon in Boone, IA, will be a 6th record if accepted. An adult Black-headed Gull found on Chicago's lakefront in Feb was still present in early Mar. An immature Rufous Hummingbird first discovered in Cape Girardeau, MO, in October continued into Mar.

A Black-billed Magpie was notable in mid-Feb in *Osage*, MO. The *Cottonwood*, MN, Green-tailed Towhee was still present in early Mar. A Great-tailed Grackle spent much of Feb in WI. *Dallas*, IAs, Hoary Redpoll continued into late Feb.

### Texas

The winter's Little Gull continued at Dallas's White Rock Lake into early Mar. A Rufous-backed Robin appeared at Santa Ana NWR in early Mar. The Texas Bird Records Committee [www.texasbirds.org/tbrc/](http://www.texasbirds.org/tbrc/) solicits documentations from birders fortunate enough to have seen Gray-crowned Yellowthroat at Sabal Palm this winter.

### Southwest

Two Black Scoters visited *Washington*, UT, in late Feb. A female Long-tailed Duck lingered to early Mar in *Colfax*, NM. A **Heermann's Gull** was at AZ's Whitewater Draw in mid-Feb. A second-cycle **Iceland Gull**, NM's second if accepted, was in *Sierra* in early Mar, while an adult reported from *Davis* in late Feb will be a first for UT if accepted; the long-staying individual on the NM/TX border remained through at least mid-Feb. *Davis*, UT, also harbored a third-cycle **Western Gull** into early Mar. A first-cycle **Western Gull** was photographed in *Eddy*, NM, in early Mar.

A Gilded Flicker wandered north to *Washington*, UT, in late Feb. A female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in *Washington*, UT, in early Mar. Chihuahuan Ravens staged an incursion into northeast Colorado. Three cooperative Rufous-backed Robins were still present northeast of Phoenix in early Mar. A Pine Warbler continued at a feeder in *Cochise*, AZ, through early Mar. Notable in winter, a Red-faced Warbler was found in AZ's Patagonia Mountains in mid-Feb. An adult Lapland Longspur in *Santa Cruz* in Feb and early Mar was one of fewer than 20 records for southeast AZ.

### California

A Brown Booby was off *Mendocino* in late Feb. Single Manx Shearwaters were off Ventura and from shore at Point Dume, *Los Angeles*. Two Roseate Spoonbills wintered in *Imperial*. An adult Crested Caracara continued in *Monterey* in early Mar; another was in *Humboldt* in mid-Feb. Very rare in spring, a Baird's Sandpiper was in *San Diego* in mid-Mar. A third-cycle Slaty-backed Gull in late Feb, said to be a first for *Del Norte*, was joined by an adult in early Mar; as many as 3 Slaty-backs were in *Marin* in mid-Feb, and an adult and a second-year were at Half Moon Bay in early Mar.

A Black-capped Chickadee in *Humboldt* in mid-Feb was said to be among the southernmost ever recorded in the state. A Yellow-throated and a Worm-eating Warbler continued into early Mar in *Orange* and *Los Angeles*, respectively. A new

Grace's Warbler appeared in *San Diego*, while the wintering individual continued in *Santa Maria*. Single Painted Redstarts continued in *Santa Barbara*, *San Bernadino*, *San Diego*, and *Los Angeles*; *Santa Barbara* also hosted a wintering Black-throated Green Warbler.

### Northwest

A **Whooper Swan** arrived in *Whatcom*, WA, in mid-Feb and was still present in early Mar. OR's Falcated Duck was still present in early Mar. Single Mottled Petrels were salvaged at 2 OR locations in late Feb. A **Black-headed Gull** continued in *Kitsap*, WA, in late Feb. A **Red-legged Kittiwake** was reported from coastal OR in early Mar. Notable numbers of Horned Puffins were found along the OR coast, most dead birds salvaged on beaches.

Two Curve-billed Thrashers continued into Mar in MT. Early Mar found 2 Bewick's Wrens still in Missoula, MT. The Alvadore, OR, Summer Tanager persisted into late Feb. A female Northern Cardinal, first seen in early Feb, was still present near Calgary in early Mar. A Hoary Redpoll was in MT in late Feb.

## America's Birdiest: 2007

BY MIKE WILSON

Welcome back to everyone who has participated in the America's Birdiest City/County competitions in the past—and welcome, especially, to all newcomers!

I am honored to succeed Phil Pryde in coordinating the ABC/C competition, a unique and uniquely enjoyable bird count. And I am grateful that John Porter, Executive Director of Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries (DIBS), has made available the services of that organization. DIBS was established in the mid 1980s to preserve the 165-acre Audubon Sanctuary on Dauphin Island, Alabama. Since then, the organization has been working tirelessly to purchase and protect key habitat, from tupelo gum swamps to some of the oldest live oaks along the Gulf Coast.

Among other things, DIBS is supporting the ABC/C competition by providing information at its website, [coastalbirding.org](http://coastalbirding.org). Returning competitors will find that we have made no changes to the rules posted at the website. You can hold your count in any 72-hour period between April 1 and May 31. When you have finished your count, please email me the results at [ylhammer@cs.com](mailto:ylhammer@cs.com). You are always welcome to email me with any questions you might have.

### The categories:

- Large Coastal City (over 100 square miles)
  - Large Inland City (population over 100,000)
  - Small Coastal City (under 100 square miles)
  - Small Inland City (population under 100,000)
  - Inland Eastern County
  - Inland Western County
  - Coastal Gulf Coast County
  - Coastal Atlantic County
  - Coastal Pacific County
- Good luck, and let's get birding!