

APRIL TO EARLY MAY

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

PHENOMENA: A strong coastal storm in mid-Apr brought a **Manx Shearwater** to RI and **Sooty Terns** to CT, RI (4 individuals), and NY. That storm may have been responsible for an adult **Yellow-nosed Albatross** found later in the month in a southern ME field and taken in for rehabilitation. Single **Purple Gallinules** in ME and NJ may also have been borne north by the storm, along with PA's potential 5th record of **American Oystercatcher**. Among the landbirds deposited by the storm was a **Swainson's Warbler** at NJ's Sandy Hook.

Southeast

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were on Dauphin Island, AL, in late April. A Cinnamon Teal was found in early May in *Cameron*, LA. An alternate-plumaged Pacific Loon was in *Escambia*, FL, in early Apr. Potentially a state first, a **Neotropic Cormorant** was in *Monroe*, FL, just east of Key West, in mid-Apr. A Ruff visited *Lake*, TN, in late Apr. A Black-legged Kittiwake visited *Cameron*, LA, in late Apr. A **White-winged Tern** in *Walton* in late Apr will be a first FL record if accepted. A Black Noddy was reported from the Dry Tortugas in late Apr. A large swift over AL's Dauphin Island and at nearby Ft Morgan in mid-Apr was still unidentified at press time; entirely dark, it was thought to be probably a **Black Swift**. An adult male and at least one immature male Calliope Hummingbirds were at a *Dekalb*, GA, feeder in mid-Apr.

A **Loggerhead Kingbird** in *Monroe*, FL, in late Apr was presumed to be the same bird that had furnished a first ABA record at Key West earlier in the month. A **Bahama Mockingbird** was photographed in *Broward*, FL, in early Apr; two further individuals appeared on the Dry Tortugas and in *Miami-Dade* in early May. The green-backed male **Western Spindalis** continued in *Broward*, FL, into late Apr; a female was discovered in *Palm Beach* at month's end. The *Franklin*, FL, Spotted Towhee was still present in late Apr. A Western Meadowlark was in *Escambia*, FL, in early May.

Northeast

An *Aythya* duck in south coastal ME was thought to be possibly a Tufted Duck x Common Pochard or Redhead hybrid. A Pacific Loon was in *Garrett*, MD, in mid-Apr. An adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron visited *Ottawa* in mid-Apr. Now expected in the region, single White-faced Ibis were in southern NJ, CT, and NY, while 2 continued into early May in coastal MA. A Swallow-tailed

Kite was over Cape Cod in early May. A Yellow Rail was heard near Cape May in late Apr. Purple Gallinules totaled 3 in NJ and one in CT. At least 3 European Golden-Plovers were at St. John's and Eastport, NL, in early May, and 5 at Cape Bonavista. A **Black-tailed Godwit** furnished a potential first record for VT in late Apr. Two Curlew Sandpipers arrived on NJ's Delaware Bayshore in late Apr.

A Painted Bunting was on Martha's Vineyard in late April, while 2 appeared in MD. A Harris's Sparrow visited a feeder in western NY in mid-Apr.

Midwest

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was in western IA in early May. A Ross's Goose was in *Holmes*, OH, in mid-Apr. Single drake Cinnamon Teals were noteworthy in *Holt*, *Lincoln*, and *Boone*, MO, in Apr. A Tricolored Heron visited *Preble*, OH, in mid-Apr. A Glossy Ibis joined a flock of White-faced Ibis in *Lac qui Parle*, MN, in late Apr, while up to 7 were at OH's Metzger Marsh mid-month; a flock of 7 Glossy Ibis in *Polk*, IA, in early May will provide a 3rd state record if accepted. A Neotropic Cormorant was at MO's Squaw Creek NWR in mid-Apr. Seven Whooping Cranes in *Polk*, MN, in mid-Apr were thought to be members of the wild flock. A Black-necked Stilt was found in *Preble*, OH, in mid-Apr. A Snowy Plover was notable in *Appanoose*, IA, in early May. Whimbrels appeared early and in good numbers in MO.

A Rock Wren in *Montgomery*, IA, in early May will be that state's 8th if accepted; another visited *Milwaukee*, WI, in late Apr. A Sage Thrasher appeared in Chicago in late Apr. A Worm-eating Warbler was near Fargo, ND, in early May. A male Townsend's Warbler visited Chicago in early May. Early May found an adult male Lazuli Bunting in *Clay*, MO, and a potential state-first male Painted Bunting in *Stark*, ND. A Spotted Towhee continued into late Apr in *Lucas*, OH. A Eurasian Tree Sparrow was photographed in *St. Louis*, MN, in mid-Apr.

Texas

The **Kleberg Masked Duck** continued to mid-Apr. A light immature Short-tailed Hawk was reported from Bentsen in mid-Apr. A **Green-breasted Mango** was photographed at Sabine Woods in late Apr. A Green Violetear was reported from a *Bastrop* feeder in late Apr.

A Greater Pewee was photographed at Sabal Palm in early May. Single Yellow-green Vireos were at Santa Ana NWR, Sabine Pass, and Brownsville in late Apr and early May. Tamaulipas Crows were reported nesting in Brownsville in late Apr. A Townsend's Warbler was near Sabine Pass in Apr. A Varied Bunting was on South Padre Island in mid-Apr.



European Golden-Plover, Newfoundland. Photo © Paul Linegar.

Southwest

Three Scaled Quail in San Juan, UT, were not thought to be recent releases. An immature Brown Pelican was at AZ's Patagonia Lake in early May. A Glossy Ibis was reported in *San Juan*, UT, in early Apr. A Reddish Egret was in *DeBaca*, NM, in early May. AZ birders noted as many as 4 Broad-winged Hawks in Apr and early May; another was in *Washington*, UT, in late Apr. 3 American Golden-Plovers were photographed in *Davis*, UT, in mid-Apr; another was at AZ's Lake Cochise in early May. *Davis*, UT, also hosted 10 Red Knots and a Hudsonian Godwit in late Apr, followed by a Ruddy Turnstone in early May.

A White-eyed Vireo was at NM's Melrose migrant trap in late Apr. A Carolina Wren in *Santa Fe*, NM, continued into late Apr, as did 2 or more in *Canon*, CO. A Rufous-backed Robin appeared briefly in Phoenix in late Apr. A pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers was apparently feeding young in Madera Canyon in early May. Notable Arizona warblers in mid-Apr included a male Black-throated Blue Warbler in Tucson, and a Yellow-throated Warbler and as many as 3 Worm-eating Warblers in the Chiricahuas; a Tennessee Warbler was photographed and tape-recorded at Gilbert in early May. Colorado birders enjoyed single Blackburnian and Mourning Warblers in *Lincoln* and a White-eyed Vireo and a Yellow-throated Warbler in *Prowers* in late Apr and early May; another White-eyed Vireo and a Northern Parula were in *Pueblo*, CO, in late Apr, while a Worm-eating Warbler visited *Larimer*. Three Painted Redstarts were in UT's Zion National Park in early Apr, with 2 still there at month's end; another Painted Redstart was at Canon City, CO, in late Apr. Madera Canyon's male Flame-colored Tanager was still without a mate in early May. Rare and early, a Yellow Grosbeak was reported from AZ's upper San Pedro River in early May. A Northern Cardinal was singing in *Yuma*, AZ, in early May. A Clay-colored Sparrow was in *Washington*, UT, in late Apr.

California

A juvenile Short-tailed Albatross was seen off Monterey in late Apr. A Manx Shearwater was seen from Point Pinos in mid-Apr. Two Glossy Ibis were reported on private property in *San Bernardino* in mid-Apr. 3 Roseate Spoonbills were still present at the Salton Sea in early May. A Crested Caracara continued in *Monterey* into mid-Apr; another was discovered in *Del Norte* at month's end. A golden-plover

was at the Salton Sea in mid-Apr. The *Los Angeles* Rock Sandpiper reappeared in alternate plumage in late Apr. A Horned Puffin was found dead in *Humboldt* in mid-Apr; another corpse was at the Tijuana River mouth in early May. Seven living Parakeet Auklets were found in *Ventura* waters on a late-Apr pelagic trip. A Black-headed Gull was found at the Goleta sewage plant, *Santa Barbara*, in mid-Apr. A 3rd-cycle Slaty-backed Gull was in *Humboldt* in late



Black-tailed Gull, Alaska. Photo © Robert Trotter.

Apr. Calliope Hummingbirds staged a strong spring migration, with "unprecedented" numbers noted in *Santa Barbara* in mid-Apr.

A Greater Pewee continued into late Apr in *Los Angeles*. A male Golden-winged Warbler visited a Monterey park in late Apr. An Orange-crowned Warbler of the Channel Islands race *sordida* was banded at Big Sur in late Apr. A male Blue Grosbeak visited *Alameda* in mid-Apr.

Northwest and Northern Plains

Four Smews were photographed on AK's Shemya Island in late Apr, while a male Smew discovered in southwest AB in early Apr will be that province's first record if accepted. An Arctic Loon was at *Kitsap*, WA's Point No Point in mid-Apr. Black-necked Stilts were widely reported in southern AB in Apr. Two Whimbrels were near Casper, WY, in early May. Calgary birders recorded 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Apr, while an immature Kumlien's Gull was there in late Apr. A Black-tailed Gull was photographed on Shemya in late Apr. Two Bewick's Wrens continued into early May in MT. A male Black-throated Green Warbler was at OR's Finley NWR in late Apr. .

Extinction Threatens Two Hawaiian Birds

By STEVE HOLMER, AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

A dramatic drop in sightings of the Akekee and the Akikiki, two very rare birds on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, is raising concern that these species may be on the brink of extinction. Beginning in April, the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources has been conducting population surveys of forest birds on Kauai to see whether the suspected declines are real.

David Kuhn, Doug Pratt, and Alvaro Jaramillo, who leading birding tours on Kauai, recently alerted state and US Fish and Wildlife Services to the drop in sightings of the Akekee, a small yellow-and-green bird that lives in the high-elevation rainforests of Kauai. The Akikiki, a small bi-colored bird that lives in wet montane forests in central Kauai, has less than 1,500 remaining individuals and now occupies less than 10% of its former range. Both species are threatened by habitat loss, invasive species, and disease.

Of particular concern is evidence that rising average temperatures could allow mosquitoes to survive at higher elevations, exposing the birds to deadly diseases. Researchers for the U.S. Geological Survey have concluded that even a small increase in temperatures in Hawaii's forests will eliminate much of the mosquito-free safe zone that once existed for Kauai's birds.