

## OCTOBER TO MID-NOVEMBER 2007

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

**PHENOMENA:** It looks like an invasion winter. Boreal finches and Bohemian Waxwings were widely reported in Oct in Canada and the northern US. Observers in Minnesota recorded a noteworthy influx of Black-backed and (to a lesser extent) American Three-toed Woodpeckers in late Oct. A Gray Jay was south to eastern Massachusetts. Boreal Chickadees were moving in Manitoba, Minnesota, and Massachusetts in Nov. Wandering Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins were noted as far south as Sonora, Mexico, and Mountain Chickadees were found in the lowlands from California to western Nebraska. Cassin's Finches moved to lower elevations in California and the Southwest.

### Southeast

A Surf Scoter continued into late Oct in *Prairie*, AR. Strong winds brought numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels and Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers to FL's east coast in late Oct. An Anhinga was reported over *Bedford*, VA, in late Oct. A Magnificent Frigatebird was over *Northampton*, VA, in early Oct. A **Mountain Plover** was photographed in South Carolina in mid-Oct. Two California Gulls were in *Marshall*, AL, in late Oct. GA's Jekyll Island hosted a Franklin's Gull in mid-Oct. A Long-tailed Jaeger was photographed in *Volusia*, FL, in mid-Nov. Steadily moving east, an Inca Dove was in *Washington*, AR, in late Oct; a Common Ground-Dove was in *Clay*, MO, in early Oct. A **Calliope Hummingbird** visited a *Calvert*, MD, feeder in late Oct. GA's first **Green-breasted Mango** remained in *Laurens* into mid-Nov.

A **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was in *Franklin*, FL, in mid-Oct. A female Vermilion Flycatcher discovered in mid-Oct at GA's Eufaula NWR was thought to be returning for her third winter at the site; another was in *Columbia*, FL, at month's end. Reports of single Fork-tailed Flycatchers in late Oct in *Anne Arundel* and *Kent*, MD, may have pertained to a single bird. Three Cave Swallows were on the GA coast in mid-Oct, with up to 10 on the Chesapeake Bay in VA and MD in early Nov. A **Townsend's Warbler** was in *Miami-Dade*, FL, in late Oct, while a **MacGillivray's Warbler** was in *Monroe*. A female Western Tanager visited *Pinellas*, FL, in late Oct. A Snow Bunting was south to GA's Altamaha in early Nov.

### Northeast

A Black Brant was on the NJ shore in late Oct, while 4 were reported from *Erie*, PA, mid-month. Single Barnacle Geese were in NH, NS, NY, and at MA's Great Meadows in early Oct. A Pink-footed Goose was pho-

tographed in PQ in early Oct. An Anhinga flew over Cape May in early Oct. A Western Grebe spent a single early Nov day in coastal ME. Probably hurricane driven, a Magnificent Frigatebird was over NS in early Nov. Four Black Vultures in VT in late Oct were said to favor the parking lot of a public gymnasium. A Swallow-tailed Kite soared over Cape May in early Oct. Still noteworthy in eastern MA, 2 Swainson's Hawk lingered there into early Oct. A dark-morph Gyrfalcon was on NS's Cape Sable Island in early Oct. An American Avocet visited *Aroostook*, ME, in Oct. A Northern Lapwing appeared at Cape Race, NL, in early Nov. Three Gull-billed Terns were on Cape Sable Island in mid-Oct. Still present in mid-Nov, a **Common Ground-Dove** beautifully photographed in East Haven, CT, will be a first for that state if accepted. Notably north even for that ambitious species, a White-winged Dove visited Sept-Iles, PQ, in late Oct. An adult male **Calliope Hummingbird** was at a Cape May feeder in early Oct, and single **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** arrived on Nantucket and Cape Cod in early Nov.

A **Gray Kingbird** strayed to *Somerset*, NJ, in late Oct. A **Cassin's Kingbird** was on eastern Long Island in mid-Oct; closely studied and well photographed, this will be a first record for NY if accepted. Cave Swallows occurred as singles and small groups in NH, RI, NY, CT, and NJ. Single Townsend's Solitaires were in PQ, on Martha's Vineyard, and at NJ's Merrill Creek in late Oct. A female Mountain Bluebird appeared in *Shelburne*, NS, in mid-Nov. Single Northern Wheatears were present in early Oct in ON and in *Franklin*, MA. Single Yellow-throated Warblers were visiting feeders in NS, ME, and RI in early Nov. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** was reported from Cape Ann in late Oct; another was banded on Cape Cod. A Harris's Sparrow in CT in late Oct was that state's first "chaseable" individual in 20 years. A late-Oct Yellow-headed Blackbird provided one of few RI sightings in the last decade. A male Bullock's Oriole dined on grapes in NS in late Oct.



Mountain Plover, South Carolina.  
Photo © Jerry Kerschner.

### Mid-continent

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was in *Hennepin*, MN, in early Nov. A count of 72 White-winged Scoters at Duluth in late Oct was a new autumn high for MN; 58 Black Scoters were seen in *Aitkin*, MN, on the same day. A Masked Duck was found at TX's Santa Ana NWR in early Oct, while a family group with 8 ducklings was in *Live Oak* in early Nov. Single Glossy Ibis visited *Greene* and *Lorain*, OH, in Oct. Potentially IA's second, a Wood Stork remained through Oct 7 in *Polk*. A

Black Vulture in *Polk*, IA, in early Oct is a potential 5th state record. A Mississippi Kite visited a Chicago-area hawkwatch in early Nov. A juvenile White-tailed Hawk in *Cameron* in late Oct provided a 5th record for LA. Up to 3 adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at the Bismarck, ND, landfill in Oct, while an adult Mew Gull was found at ND's Garrison Dam. Single Laughing Gulls, both second-winter birds, were in *Marion*, IA, and *Knox*, NE, in early Oct. Accidental in IA away from



Common Ground-Dove, Connecticut.  
Photo © Mark Szantyr.

the northwest, a Black-headed Gull visited that state's Saylorville Reservoir in mid-Oct. A White-winged Dove was north to *Otter Tail*, MN, in mid-Oct, while a cooperative Inca Dove in *Lake* in early Nov will be a first MN record if accepted. WI's **Green-breasted Mango** has been taken into captivity; an Anna's Hummingbird spent the second half of the month in *Dane*, WI. A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was photographed in *Sarpy*, NE, in early Nov. MN birders noted high numbers of American Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers in Oct. A Red-bellied Woodpecker at a Calgary-area feeder in Nov will be a first or second record for AB if accepted.

A Gray Kingbird was on the upper TX coast in early Nov. Casual in LA, as many as 4 Say's Phoebes were discovered there in Oct. A Common Raven photographed in *Cook*, IL, in mid-Oct was that state's first in over 50 years. A Pinyon Jay photographed in AB in mid-Oct will be about the third provincial record if accepted. *Lake*, IL, hosted a Clark's Nutcracker in early Nov. A Cave Swallow was photographed at MI's Whitefish Point in mid-Oct; one in central IA at month's end will be that state's first if accepted. An adult male Varied Thrush visited *Boone*, MO, in late Oct. Rarely observed on migration, a Kirtland's Warbler was in *Wayne*, OH, in early Oct. A male Black-throated Blue Warbler strayed to Calgary, AB, in early Oct. A Summer Tanager briefly visited *St. Louis*, MN, in late Oct. A Snow Bunting was remarkably far south in *McCurtain*, OK, in mid-Nov.

### Southwest

A Black Scoter in *Colfax*, NM, in late Oct was said to be that state's 7th. A Red-necked Grebe visited *Sierra*, NM, in mid-Oct. A Common Black-Hawk was in *Fremont*, CO, in early Oct. Potentially AZ's 4th, a Northern Jacana was in *Pinal* in Nov. A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was photographed at UT's Antelope Causeway in early Oct for a potential first state record. A **Ruff** was photographed in Maricopa, AZ, in late Oct. A Long-tailed Jaeger photographed in Washington, UT, in mid-Oct was that state's first in 14 years. A Mew Gull was found in *Colfax*, NM, in mid-Oct. Madera Canyon's **Eared Quetzal** was still being seen (and more often heard) in mid-Nov. The adult **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** in Patagonia, AZ, stayed true to its feeder into late Oct.

A Cave Swallow was in *Sierra*, NM, in mid-Oct. A **Crescent-chested Warbler** discovered in AZ's Madera Canyon in late Oct was still present in mid-Nov. Single Blackpoll War-

blers were found in *Pima* and *Maricopa*, AZ, in Oct. A female Black-throated Blue Warbler was at AZ's Las Cienegas NCA in late Oct. A Black-throated Green Warbler was photographed in Tucson in early Nov. A Prairie Warbler was notable at NM's Bosque del Apache in late Oct. A Le Conte's Sparrow was discovered in *Otero*, NM, in early Nov. Lawrence's Goldfinches made a strong showing in AZ, with several east to NM in Oct.

### West Coast and Alaska

An apparent **King Eider** was reported in *Orange*, CA, in early Nov. One or 2 Streaked Shearwaters were off Monterey Bay in mid-Oct. A Black-vented Shearwater was off OR's Boiler Bay in early Nov. A juvenile Short-tailed Albatross was seen from *St. Paul* in early Oct. A Brown Booby continued through Oct in *Santa Clara*, CA. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported from *Sonoma*, CA, in early Oct. A first state record if accepted, a juvenile **Eurasian Kestrel** was banded and photographed in *Marin*, CA, in late Oct. A white-morph Gyrfalcon was in *Lincoln*, OR, in late Oct. A juvenile **Marsh Sandpiper** on *St. Paul* in early Oct provided a first record for the Pribilofs and only the 6th for North America. The Bar-tailed Godwit in *San Diego*, CA, was still present in early Oct. The Vancouver, BC, area hosted an **Ivory Gull** and a **Ross's Gull** into mid-Nov; both were adults. A **Ruddy Ground-Dove** was in *Ventura*, CA, in early Nov. A mid-Oct Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in BC's southern Okanagan Valley. An Anna's Hummingbird was photographed in Skagway, AK, in late Oct.

A **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was in *Humboldt*, CA, in mid-Oct. An apparent Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was photographed in *San Diego*, CA, in early Oct. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was in Monterey, CA, in early Oct. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was in Victoria, BC, in late Oct. Up to 3 Tropical Kingbirds were in coastal OR in early and mid-Oct, with one north to Vancouver Island in early Nov. A Yellow-green Vireo was in *San Diego*, CA, in early Oct. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was notable on BC's Vancouver Island in late Oct. A **Dusky Warbler** photographed in *Santa Barbara*, CA, in early Oct will be that state's 5th if accepted. One to 3 Red-throated Pipits were reported in *Orange*, *Ventura*, *San Diego*, and *Monterey*, CA, in Oct and early Nov. A Worm-eating Warbler was in CA's Anza-Borrego SP in mid-Oct. A Lucy's Warbler lingered in CA's *San Mateo* in late Oct. Single Pine Warblers were in *Santa Barbara* and *San Diego*, CA, in early Nov. A Grace's Warbler on Southeast Farallon Island in mid-Oct will be northern CA's 4th if accepted. A male Scarlet Tanager was in *Orange*, CA, in late Sep, followed by another in *Santa Barbara* in late Oct. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found in *Santa Barbara*, CA, in early Oct. A **Rustic Bunting** was reported from Vancouver Island in late Oct. A Snow Bunting was in *Mendocino*, CA, in late Oct. Two Chestnut-collared Longspurs appeared in coastal OR in late Oct. A Eurasian Bullfinch visited AK's Saint Paul Island in early Oct.