

SIGHTINGS

EARLY JANUARY TO EARLY FEBRUARY 2007

"Sightings" appears monthly, alternating between *Winging It* and this publication, in an effort to keep North American birders abreast of the latest news, reports, and rumors in the ABA area. For full analysis of these and other important bird records, subscribe to *North American Birds*, the richly illustrated journal of ornithological record published by the ABA (americanbirding.org/pubs/nab).



Say's Phoebe. Wayne County, North Carolina; 12 January 2007. © Johnny Hill.

Compiled by Rick Wright, with thanks to Paul Lehman and Jon Dunn

Southeast: A Cinnamon Teal visited Polk, FL, in late Jan. A Tufted Duck was on AR's Lake Dardanelle in early Feb. A female Harlequin Duck was reported from AL's Bon Secour Bay in mid-Jan. Five Red-throated Loons were on AR's Lake Maumelle in early Feb. A Red-necked Grebe visited Murray, GA, in mid-Jan. A Western Grebe spent much of Jan on both sides of the GA-AL border, while an apparent Clark's Grebe was on Lake Dardanelle, AR, in early Feb. Two immature White-faced Ibis were found in Wakulla, FL, in mid-Jan. A Wood Stork was in coastal VA in mid-Jan. A first-winter Iceland Gull was in Baldwin, AL, in mid-Jan. An adult California Gull was photographed in Liberty, GA, in mid-Jan. Single immature male Calliope

Hummingbirds were at feeders in Leon and Duval, FL, while a male in Savannah, GA, continued to at least mid-Jan. A female Broad-tailed Hummingbird at feeders in Cobb, GA, was said to be that state's 7th.

Late Jan found a Cassin's Kingbird and a Hammond's Flycatcher in Orange, FL. A Say's Phoebe was notable in Wayne, NC, in mid-Jan. A Northern Wheatear photographed in Baldwin, AL, in early Feb will be that state's 4th record. A male green-backed Western Spindalis continued in Broward, FL. A Western Tanager was in coastal NC in early Feb. Two Western Meadowlarks were in Escambia, FL, in late Jan. A female Bullock's Oriole was in Leon, FL, in mid-Jan.

Northeast: A Black Brant was found in DE in early Feb. Two Pink-footed Geese discovered in Jan continued

into early Feb in RI. A Pacific Loon was in south coastal ME in late Jan. NH's Eared Grebe continued into late Jan. An adult gray-morph Gyrfalcon was in Delaware, NY, in mid-Jan. An adult California Gull was in Bucks, PA, in mid-Jan. An adult Ivory Gull spent much of the period being omnivorous at NL's Quidi Vidi Lake. Two apparent Slaty-backed Gulls—an adult and a third-cycle individual—were in coastal NH in Jan. An adult California Gull was at ON's Niagara Falls in mid-Jan. A well-photographed Long-billed Murrelet, a state first, was at NJ's Sandy Hook in mid-Jan. A Band-tailed Pigeon in Cape May in mid-Jan will be NJ's second if accepted.

A Wood Thrush photographed in southern ME in mid-Jan represented a first winter record for the state. NL scored another Redwing in mid-Jan at Cape Race. Exceptional in winter, a Northern Parula visited a Hunterdon, NJ, feeder in late Jan. A Townsend's Solitaire spent Jan and early Feb in Erie, PA. A Black-throated Gray Warbler was on Nantucket in early Feb. A Townsend's Warbler was still present in eastern MA. A Cape May Warbler was out of season in Franklin, PA, in early Feb. A Wilson's Warbler was apparently wintering in eastern MA, while single Ovenbirds were attempting to winter in New York City and in Toronto. A Western Tanager was in NS in early Feb; single Westerns were also in Hunterdon and Atlantic, NJ. An 8th provincial record if accepted, a Harris's Sparrow was in NS in early Feb. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was in NS in mid-Jan. A female-plumage Painted Bunting was in Philadelphia throughout the period, while a male held on in NS into late Jan. CT's Lazuli Bunting continued to at least mid-Feb.

A female White-winged Crossbill was carrying nesting material in late Jan in VT.

Midwest: A Surf Scoter and 2 Black Scoters persisted in *St. Louis*, MO, into mid-Jan. A potential first for IA, a **White-tailed Kite** was seen in *Lamoni* in mid-Jan. Single Gyrfalcons were south to *Boone*, IA, and *Liv- ington*, IL, in early Feb. An adult Harris's Hawk in *Wichita*, KS, in mid-Jan was wearing neither jesses nor bells; this species has exhibited vagrancy into OK in the past. Single Purple Sandpipers were on Chicago's lakefront and in *Macomb*, MI, in mid-Jan. A Slaty-backed Gull was in *Wash- ington*, MN, in mid-Jan. A surprising Great Gray Owl, potentially IL's first, was in *Randolph*, IL, in early Feb.

A Gray Jay was in *Grand Forks*, ND, in late Jan. A female Black-throated Gray Warbler in MI succumbed to the cold in mid-Jan, while a male Western Tanager held on to the end of the month in *St. Louis*, MO. A Green-tailed Towhee visited a *Pennington*, SD, feeder in Jan; another continued in *Cottonwood*, MN. A male Lark Bunting was in *Stoddard*, MO, in mid-Jan. A Bullock's Oriole was in *Scott*, IN, in early Feb. The apparent Hoary Redpoll in *Dallas*, IA, continued into early Feb. A Eurasian Tree Sparrow photographed in *Madison* in early Feb will be a first for NE if accepted; another had been in *Ontonagon*, MI, in Jan.

Texas: A Little Gull was in *Dallas* in mid-Jan. A male Costa's Hummingbird appeared at a *Parker* feeder in mid-Jan. Two Gray-crowned Yellowthroats returned to *Sabal Palm*. Single Black-throated Gray and Hermit Warblers and 2 Townsend's War-

blers were wintering in *Anzalduas Co. Park*.

Southwest: Scaled Quail in *San Juan*, UT, in mid-Jan were thought to be of wild origin. Adding to the fall and winter's impressive showing in the state, at least 4 Red-necked Grebes were on the lower Colorado River in



Smew. *Soulsbyville, California; 24 January 2007. © Joseph Morlan.*

AZ in Jan. Single Red Phalaropes were observed at 3 southern AZ sites in January. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull in *Sierra*, NM, in late Jan and Feb will be a second state record if accepted; NM's first Iceland Gull remained in the El Paso area through mid-Jan. A first-cycle Thayer's Gull in *Mohave*, AZ, in mid-Jan was one of fewer than 10 ever recorded in the state. Eighteen Ruddy Ground-Doves were in a single flock in *Maricopa*, AZ, in late Jan. An apparent hybrid Broad-billed × Violet-crowned Hummingbird continued in *Pinal*, AZ.

AZ's first **Couch's Kingbird** continued into Feb in *Yuma*. A Greater Pewee was wintering on the upper Santa Cruz River in AZ. An adult male Rose-throated Becard was wintering at *Patagonia Lake*, AZ. A Palm Warbler was discovered in *Phoenix* in late Jan. A Pine Warbler frequented a *Cochise*, AZ, feeder into Feb. Very unusual in winter, a Blue Grosbeak was wintering in *Santa Cruz*, AZ. A **Common**

Grackle was in *Cochise*, AZ, in early Feb. AZ's Gilbert Water Ranch continued to host an adult male Streak-backed Oriole.

California: A male **Smew**, potentially the state's 2nd accepted record, was in *Tuolumne* in late Jan. Three Reddish Egrets continued in *San Diego* in mid-Jan. A Crested Caracara was in *Los Angeles* in mid-Jan; one in *Santa Barbara* in early Feb showed wing damage suggestive of recent captivity. The American Oystercatcher continued to late Jan in *La Jolla*. The *Los Angeles* Rock Sandpiper continued into late Jan. A second-cycle Slaty-backed Gull was at *Half Moon Bay* in mid-Jan. A Black-headed Gull was at the *Salton Sea* in *Riverside* in late Jan and early Feb; the *Sea* in *Imperial* hosted a Little Gull for most of Jan. The *Solano* Snowy Owl was last seen in late Jan.

A male Hepatic Tanager arrived in *San Diego* in mid-Jan. A Snow Bunting was in *Humboldt* in mid-Jan. A Common Grackle was in *Sacramento* in mid-Jan. An adult male Scott's Oriole was in *San Francisco* in mid-Jan.

Northwest: A **Whooper Swan** continued into early Feb in *Skagit*, WA. The Eugene, OR, Falcated Duck continued. A King Eider was in *Whatcom*, WA, in Jan. A female **Steller's Eider** was discovered in OR in early Feb. Very unusual in winter, a Franklin's Gull was near *Delta*, BC, in mid-Jan. At least two Slaty-backed Gulls were in coastal WA in Jan. An Iceland Gull was reported from AK's *Kenai Peninsula* in early Feb. A Thick-billed Murre was at WA's *Point-No-Point* in Jan and Feb.

A Sedge Wren visited *Polk*, OR, in mid-Jan. A Summer Tanager was present for much of Jan in *Alvadore*, OR.