

SIGHTINGS

EARLY MAY TO EARLY JUNE 2007

As every birder knows, bird distributions are in constant flux. For a number of reasons, birds once locally rare can become common, and formerly abundant species can withdraw from a region. Such long-time mainstays of the "Sightings" columns as Glossy and White-faced Ibises, White-winged Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Painted Bunting have so convincingly demonstrated their expansionist tendencies that in many instances they no longer seem to merit inclusion; other species, too, will drift in and out of these summaries as their status appears to change. For more detailed, thoroughly analyzed reports on these and many other "birds on the move", subscribe to *North American Birds*, the ABA's richly illustrated journal of ornithological record.

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

Southeast: East winds brought Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels and several Arctic Terns onshore in FL in late May and early Jun. A male **Snail Kite** in *Clarendon*, SC, first observed in late May will be a first state record if accepted. Three Limpkins continued into early Jun in *Cook*, GA. A confiding Brown Noddy was in FL's *Indian River* in early Jun. An American Oystercatcher in *Lauderdale*, AL, in late May was a first inland record for that state. A female Kirtland's Warbler stopped over in *Indian River*, FL, in mid-May. A male Western Tanager was in DC in mid-May. A male Shiny Cowbird visited a *McIntosh*, GA, feeder in late May.

Northeast: Four Common Eiders were inland on CT's Barkhamsted Reservoir in mid-May. The Yellow-nosed Albatross rehabilitated in ME was released in late May from Cape Cod. A breeding-plumage **Yellow-billed Loon** visited *Dauphin*, PA, in early May, while a breeding-plumage Pacific Loon was in NH mid-month. Two different frigatebirds were near Cape May in late May, and a Red-billed Tropicbird was at Manticus Rock, ME, in early June. At least one Glossy Ibis wandered the Ottawa area in late May. An immature White Ibis was in coastal DE in mid-May.

Notable Mississippi Kite reports included 12 over Cape May in mid-May and 4 on Cape Cod at month's end. A

Swallow-tailed Kite was on Cape Cod in mid-May. A Crested Caracara of unknown origin visited NJ's Sandy Hook in early May; likely the same bird was on Martha's Vineyard mid-month. Single adult Purple Gallinules were in CT and on the NJ shore in late April and May. A Black-necked Stilt spent the second half of May in *Lehigh*, PA. One or two Wilson's Plovers were in southern NJ in late May and early Jun. Rare in spring, an American Golden-Plover was in VT in mid-May. Five Curlew Sandpipers were scattered throughout southern NJ.

A Northern Wheatear was at Cape Spear, NL, in early May, followed by single individuals at the end of the month in NL, on Cape Sable Island, NS, and in CT. A Swainson's Warbler was banded in late May at MA's Plum Island. A male Western Tanager at Goose Bay in mid-May will be a Labrador first if accepted; another was at Halifax, NL, at month's end. A male Painted Bunting visited a *Wyoming*, PA, feeder in early May. A Boat-tailed Grackle was reported from south-coastal ME in mid-May.

Mid-continent: A female Common Eider in *Sheboygan*, startling in early Jun, will be a 5th WI record if accepted. Equally unseasonal was a female-plumaged Black Scoter in ND in Jun. The *Kleberg*, TX, Masked Duck pair was last reported May 23. A Neotropical Cormorant was north to Minneapolis in mid-May. A Reddish Egret visited Chicago's Botanical Gardens in late May. WI saw a single Glossy Ibis

in *Grant* in mid-May and a flock of 9 at Horicon NWR; this explosively spreading species occurred in OH and at least 3 IA sites as well, and was thought to be breeding in NE. Single Swallow-tailed Kites were north to Chicago and to *Anoka*, MN, in early May. A pair of Snowy Plovers was photographed in Duluth in late May.

A Green Violet-ear was at a private feeder on the TX upper coast in mid-May. A late-May **Couch's Kingbird** photographed and heard in *Iosco*, MI, will be a first state record if accepted. An apparent male Cerulean Warbler x Northern Parula hybrid returned to Toledo, OH, for a fourth year. A Kirtland's Warbler in Milwaukee was on the wrong side of Lake Michigan, while one at OH's Magee Marsh in mid-May was closer to the species' presumed migration route. A Worm-eating Warbler, casual in ND, was in Grand Forks in late May. Two Western Tanagers were in northwest IA in May. A potential state-first Pyrrhuloxia was photographed in *Scott*, IA, in late May. No longer unexpected in the upper Midwest, single Painted Buntings briefly visited Milwaukee, Chicago, *Lake*, MN, and *Chester*, IA, in May; the *Story*, IA, male Painted remained into early Jun. A Lazuli Bunting was in *Wright*, MN, in late May.

Southwest: One of two Short-tailed Hawks in AZ's Chiricahuas was said to be a dark individual, only the second of that morph recorded in the state. An American Golden-Plover visited NM's Bitter Lake NWR in ear-

ly May, while a Hudsonian Godwit was there late in the month. A spectacular female Red Phalarope was a long-stayer in *Weld*, CO, in early Jun. A Black Skimmer was reported from *Rio Arriba*, NM, in mid-May. A Laughing Gull was at AZ's Patagonia Lake in mid-May. A Plain-capped Starthroat made a brief appearance in Tucson in early Jun.

A Thick-billed Kingbird in *Apache* in late May was a first northern AZ record; another was in *Yuma*. A Philadelphia Vireo photographed in late May at UT's Capitol Reef National Park will be a second state record if accepted. Black-capped Gnatcatchers fledged young in Madera Canyon in May. A Yellow Grosbeak was photographed in AZ's Huachucas in early Jun. A late-May Dickcissel will be a 3rd UT record if accepted. A total of 6 Common Grackles were in *Daggett* and *Wasatch*, UT, in mid-May. Colorado's first **Lawrence's Goldfinch** was photographed at a *Mesa*, CO, feeder in late May and lingered at least till mid-June.

West Coast: An early-May pelagic trip off southern Oregon produced sight records of Ashy and **Ringed Storm-Petrels** and a large dark storm-petrel that might have been either Markham's or Tristram's Storm-Petrel. La Jolla, CA, hosted multiple Brown Boobies at La Jolla in early Jun. Single first-year Mississippi Kites were in *Los Angeles* and *Santa*



Spring rarities in Pennsylvania hailed from two very different realms: a long-staying **Scott's Oriole**, normally associated with the arid Southwest; and a **Yellow-billed Loon**, characteristic of the arctic and northern Pacific biomes. **Top:** Cumberland County, Pennsylvania; 28 March 2007. © Cameron Rutt. **Bottom:** Dauphin County, Pennsylvania; 4 May 2007. © Cameron Rutt.

Barbara, CA, in late May. Three American Golden-Plover paused in *Imperial* in mid-May. CA's first **Wood Sandpiper** was present for two days in late May in *Kern*, where there were also 2 White-rumped Sandpipers, and then a Hudsonian Godwit in early Jun. Remarkable numbers of Horned Puffins were found along the coast this spring, with a startling nineteen at Monterey in late May.

Four or 5 Chimney Swifts were at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego*, in early Jun, and a Red-throated Pipit stopped in *Mono* in early May. A Yellow-throated Warbler was a good find in *Los Angeles*, CA, a Worm-eating Warbler vis-

ited OR's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and a male Kentucky Warbler visited *Inyo*, CA, all in mid-May. A Painted Redstart was singing in *San Diego* in early May. A Common Grackle visited a *Marin* feeder in early Jun.

Alaska: A **Spot-billed Duck** was photographed on Adak in late May. A pair of Common Pochards departed AK's St. Paul Island in late May, while a pair of Common Mergansers there was thought to be of the Old World race *merganser*. A near-adult or adult White-tailed Eagle was photographed at Gambell. A Great Knot, the Pribilofs' first in six years, was on St. Paul Island in late May, and another was at Gambell. The Pribilofs supplied a female Far Eastern Curlew in May, and Gambell hosted a Temminck's Stint. A Terek Sandpiper was beautifully photographed on Adak in late May, and another was at St. Paul Island. A Solitary Sandpiper on St. Paul mid-month was the island's second.

Ivory Gull is an apparently imperiled species, so it was gratifying to hear of at least 5 per day at Gambell in late May. A Long-billed Murrelet in late May provided a 3rd record for St. Paul Island. Shemya's spring migration goodies included 1 Dark-sided and 2 Taiga Flycatchers, a Brown Shrike, and a White (Black-backed) Wagtail. St. Paul Island produced an Eyebrowed Thrush, Gambell hosted a Hawfinch, and Shemya yielded a Common Rosefinch.