

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

Mid-May to July

PHENOMENA: Southern birds north! **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**, recently established as a breeder in South Carolina, staged an impressive northward push in May and June. Single-site counts in the double digits were recorded in North Carolina and Virginia, while Georgia's Altamaha WMA hosted a flock of more than 40, including copulating pairs. Smaller but still notable numbers were found in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and Nebraska. Rare anywhere in the inland west, **Least Terns** were sighted in Nevada and Utah, with a remarkable 8 or more from Arizona; an adult as far north as Calgary in early July will be a first for Alberta if accepted. Vagrants or pioneers, **Black-throated Sparrows** were found north of their traditional range in Washington and coastal British Columbia in June; single birds were in Boulder and Denver, Colorado, in May and June, while a "mini-invasion" was underway on the northern California coast in May.

Southeast

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck visited Adams, Tennessee, in late May. Late May and early June pelagic birding off Hatteras and Manteo, North Carolina, produced several each of Fea's (accepted on the ABA list only as Fea's/Zeno's) and Herald Petrels, two Bermuda Petrels, at least 2 Red-billed and several White-tailed Tropicbirds; at least one **European Storm-Petrel** was found in late May. A Brown Pelican flew up the Ohio past Louisville, Kentucky, in early June. Nesting Anhingas in Spalding Co. provided a first breeding record for the Georgia Piedmont.

Several Magnificent Frigatebirds were reported from both Carolinas in late May and early June; a male was in Virginia in late May, with 2 unidentified frigatebirds in the same state in late June. Now only accidental in the state, 1-4 Limpkins were reported in Georgia in June and July from Reed Bingham State Park, Lake Blalock, and Altamaha Chickasawhatchee WMAs.

A Southern Lapwing, said to be of the sedentary race *cayennensis*, at St. Marks NWR in May and June was about the eighth spring sighting for Florida; none of those records has yet been reviewed. Another Southern Lapwing was photographed in Maryland in late June. A Snowy Plover, approximately the second for North Carolina, visited Cape Hatteras in late May. A white-rumped Whimbrel in Harford Co. in late May will be a first for Maryland if accepted. An adult Arctic Tern was reported from Fort Morgan, Alabama, in early July. An adult Long-tailed Jaeger was in Duval Co., Florida, in mid-June. Cape Hatteras birders found a Sabine's Gull onshore in late May. An Arctic Tern near Fort Morgan in early July will be a first Alabama record if accepted. Only the second for Georgia if accepted, an Inca Dove was reported from Henry Co. in

mid-May. A **Green Violet-ear** was reported from the Georgia/Florida state line in mid-June.

Northeast

Three **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** appeared at New York's Jamaica Bay NWR in late May. A drake Cinnamon Teal was found at Heinz NWR near Philadelphia in June. A Tufted Duck was summering at St. John, New Brunswick. An unusual summer King Eider in Maine was a highlight for many at the ABA Convention in June. A Western Grebe in Delaware the end of May was said to be that state's first since 1972. An out-of-season Eared Grebe inland at Round Valley in late May was said to be a first for Hunterdon Co., New Jersey. Among the seabirds brought onshore by easterly winds in May was an unidentified albatross on Cape Cod. Reports in early June from Maine and coastal New Hampshire may refer to the same **Yellow-nosed Albatross** identified at Cape Ann, Massachusetts, a few days earlier. An Anhinga was said to be over New York City in late June; birders should make a point of carefully documenting this species, which is probably over-reported out of

its normal southern range. One male and one female frigatebird were in coastal New Jersey in May, followed by another in early July. In a different plumage from any of the New Jersey birds, a Magnificent Frigatebird was identified in Massachusetts in May, with 2 in Maine late in the month.

Only the 3rd ever for the ABA area, a **Western Reef-Heron** was identified in late June (and possibly present since May) in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia; still present in late July, this



King Eider, Maine. © Jerry A. Smith.

bird may be the same individual found in adjacent Newfoundland last summer. A bird said to show characteristics of both Little Egret and Snowy Egret was photographed on Nantucket in late May. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was north to Nova Scotia in mid-May. A Black Vulture was in Brattleboro, Vermont, in mid-May. Single Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites passed a Cape Cod hawkwatch in late May. Single Mississippi Kites were found in Nova Scotia in mid-June and Rhode Island in early July. A Purple Gallinule visited Nova Scotia in late May. A Wilson's Plover appeared on Long Island in mid-June. Newfoundland saw record spring numbers of Black-bellied Plovers in late May. A Curlew Sandpiper was on Cape Cod the end of May. Two Ruffs were near St. Johns, Newfoundland, mid-May; another was near Ottawa and one or two in Delaware the end of May. A Bar-tailed Godwit at Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland, in early June was the third record for the site in as many summers. A white-rumped Whimbrel was at Cape Spear, Newfoundland, in late May. Unusual numbers of Red and Red-necked Phalaropes were found in New Hampshire after the May storms.

A banded third-summer **Yellow-legged Gull** on Newfoundland the end of May was the province's first record of a non-adult and the first between late April and October. A California Gull paid a brief visit to Boston in early June. A pair of Great Black-backed Gulls near the Philadelphia Airport provided a first breeding record for Pennsylvania. A Franklin's Gull was seen briefly in eastern Massachusetts in late May. Rare on Long Island, 2 Arctic Terns were photographed there in late May. The number and variety of "southern" terns north of their normal range and earlier in the season than expected was a true phenomenon. Single Royal Terns were in Quebec and Carbon Co., Pennsylvania, in June; at least 2 were in coastal Maine, along with a **Gull-billed Tern**, said to be a 3rd state record, discovered during the ABA's Bangor Convention. Another Gull-billed was photographed in Nova Scotia in early July. Three Sandwich Terns were found in Massachusetts in June, with another on Maine's Stratton Island. Single **Bridled Terns** were also found in both states in June, with the particularly noteworthy Maine individual lingering into July. A banded Roseate Tern photographed at St. John's in mid-June will be a first for Newfoundland if accepted.

White-winged Dove reports included one in New Brunswick in late June, single birds in New Hampshire and Maine in July, and another in Shoal Harbor, Newfoundland, apparently only the fourth for the province (so far!). Still rare in the northeast, a Eurasian Collared-Dove was in eastern Pennsylvania in early July. Single Snowy Owls lingered in Cayuga and Onondaga Cos., New York, the latter still present in late June. A Boreal Owl sang in Nova Scotia in early July. A **Common Swift** photographed on the French island of St. Pierre, off Newfoundland, June 2 was the second for St. Pierre and Miquelon; there are 2 additional probable sightings for eastern North America. An apparent male **Broad-billed Hummingbird**, a provincial first if accepted, was in a Halifax, Nova Scotia, garden in late May; there is one previous record from New Brunswick. Photographs of a male **Broad-billed Hummingbird** in upstate New York in late June were made public only after the bird had left. An apparent male Rufous Hummingbird was unexpected in Erie Co., Pennsylvania, in late May. A successful American Three-toed Woodpecker nest was noteworthy in northern Maine. A Gray Kingbird at Cape May in late May was New Jersey's eighth record. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in eastern Massachusetts in early June, followed by 2 in Canso, Nova Scotia, mid-month. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was in eastern Pennsylvania in early June—the first in the state since 1873. Another visited Newfoundland in mid-July.

At least 4 Northern Wheatears were found on Newfoundland in mid-May, and single birds were on Nantucket and in Rhode Island in late May. A Swainson's Warbler wandered to Pennsylvania's Westmoreland Co. in early June; another was heard in Monmouth Co., New Jersey, in mid-June, and another seen at Cape May in early July. A Yellow-breasted Chat was singing in St. John, New Brunswick, in mid-June. Single Summer Tanagers were in Portsmouth and Falmouth, Maine, in mid-May. Unexpected in late spring, single male Black-headed Grosbeaks visited Northampton and Lehigh Cos., Pennsylvania, in May. A Lazuli Bunting in Montreal in mid-May will be Quebec's first, if accepted. An adult male Lark Bunting was reported from Maine's Orono Bog in late May.

Rare in eastern Newfoundland in spring, a Chipping Sparrow was found in Shoal Harbour in late May. A Clay-colored Sparrow was in Rhode Island in mid-June. A female Boat-tailed Grackle was in Rhode Island in early June.

Midwest

Four **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** were found in southeast Missouri in June. An apparent Mottled Duck photographed in central Iowa in July will be a first state record if accepted. A Tricolored Heron was at Michigan's Seney NWR in May. A Red-throated Loon in Woodbury Co. in June will be Iowa's second summer record if accepted. Fruits of the reintroduction project, 2 Whooping Cranes hatched at Wisconsin's Necedah NWR in June were the first of their species to be produced in the midwest in over a century. Two Snowy Plovers were found in Minnesota in early July. A female Ruff visited central Missouri in May. Accidental in North Dakota, an adult Little Gull was at the Fargo sewage ponds in mid-May. An apparent hybrid Laughing x Ring-billed Gull returned to a Chicago fast-food restaurant in June. An apparent sub-adult **Black-tailed Gull** was photographed at Churchill, Manitoba, in June. A Chuck-will's-widow sang in Berrien Co., Michigan, in late May.

A **Gray Kingbird** in southeast Missouri in late May will be a first state record if accepted. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Duluth in June was far north even for that widely wandering species. A Sage Thrasher in North Dakota in May was one of fewer than 10 records for that state. Infrequently seen on migration, 2 Kirtland's Warblers were seen in northeast Ohio in May, and another was noted at northwest Ohio's Crane Creek. A Townsend's Warbler was reported in Steele County, Minnesota, in late May. Casual in Iowa, single Prairie Warblers were found at 2 locations in June. A MacGillivray's Warbler was east in Kane Co., Illinois, in late May. Casual in North Dakota, a Hooded Warbler was in Fargo in late May. A Western Tanager was in Iosco Co., Michigan, in mid-May. A Painted Bunting visited a Marquette Co., Michigan, feeder in May, while as many as 4 Lazuli Buntings appeared in Missouri; 2 male Lazulis were at feeders in St. Clair, Minnesota, in June. Potentially Iowa's second record, a male Painted Bunting remained in Story Co. into late June; another male was in St. Louis from early May into early July. More than 40 Henslow's Sparrows were located in southeast Nebraska in late May and early June. A casual Eastern Meadowlark was reported in early June from North Dakota.

Texas

A White-tailed Hawk reported from Jeff Davis Co. would be a first trans-Pecos record. Five Hudsonian Godwits summered in Calhoun Co. A first-summer Curlew Sandpiper was on Bolivar Flats in early June. An **Arctic Tern** discovered at Balmorhea Lake in June was reported still present in July. A Mangrove Cuckoo was at Weslaco's Frontera Audubon Center from mid-May to the end of the month. A Green Violet-Ear visited a private feeder in Travis Co. in May; another was seen in Austin in early July. A **Green-breasted Mango** appeared at a Rio Grande Valley feeder in mid-July. A Rose-throated Becard nest was located in the parking lot at Santa Ana NWR. A Yellow-green Vireo was seen at Sabal Palm in

mid-May, while another in the spring's series of Black-whiskered Vireos was at Sea Rim State Park at the end of May. A male Tropical Parula was in Brazos Bend State Park the end of May. A male **Flame-colored Tanager** was reported from Big Bend in early July. A female **Crimson-collared Grosbeak** was at Frontera in mid-May.

Southwest

A Least Grebe at Avra Valley sewage ponds in June brought the known Arizona population of this possibly expanding species to 3. A Glossy Ibis was photographed in southeast Arizona in late May, while 2 Little Blue Herons appeared to be summering near Phoenix. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported from Longmont, Colorado, in July. A Gray Hawk was in Socorro Co., New Mexico, in mid-May. A light-morph Short-tailed Hawk was a first for Arizona's Pinaleno Mountains in June. Two Black Rails were heard in San Miguel Co., New Mexico, in May and June. An unprecedented 3 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were reported from Arizona's Lake Cochise in early June. Two Hudsonian Godwits were west to Colfax Co., New Mexico, in mid-May. An **Elegant Tern** visited the Gilbert Water Ranch near Phoenix in mid-June. A Ruddy Ground-Dove near Sierra Vista in early June was eclipsed by a bird brooding a nestling at Red Rock, providing a second breeding record for Arizona. A June Groove-billed Ani at Buenos Aires NWR was one of an increasing number of summer records from Arizona in recent years. A **Plain-capped Starthroat** reported the end of May from Florida Wash, Arizona, was in an unexpected location. Single Berylline Hummingbirds were present in Ramsey and Miller Canyons in June. A Lucifer Hummingbird in Madera Canyon in mid-June was far from that species' southeast Arizona strongholds. A Red-headed Woodpecker was near Bosque del Apache NWR, New Mexico, in early June. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Arizona's Fort Huachuca mid-May was most unexpected. A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers provided a first nesting record for Nevada.

A bird identified as a Buff-breasted Flycatcher was seen in Las Cruces, New Mexico, in mid-May. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded in El Paso Co., Colorado, in late May. Single Eastern Kingbirds were reported from southeast and northeast Arizona in late May. Slowly expanding west and north, a Couch's Kingbird was reported from New Mexico's Bosque del Apache NWR in June. The male Rose-throated Becard at the Patagonia Roadside Rest remained without a mate into early July. A Red-eyed Vireo was on Arizona's Fort Huachuca in late June. Hitherto considered casual, at least 30 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** invaded eastern Colorado in mid-May. A Wood Thrush was discovered in Pueblo Co., Colorado, the end of May, and another in Weld Co., Colorado, in early June; one in Tucson, Arizona, in early July was unprecedented for the date. A male **Aztec Thrush** was photographed in Arizona's Huachuca Mountains in early July. The Chiricahuas Carolina Wren, present since Septem-

ber 2005, continued into late June. Two **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** in the New Mexico portion of Guadalupe Canyon in early June will a state first if accepted; the birds were said to have been photographed. A Gray Catbird photographed carrying nesting material in Great Basin National Park provided a first confirmed breeding record for Nevada. A Phainopepla visited Pueblo Co., Colorado, in mid-June, while a single site in Weld Co. produced 2 White-eyed Vireos, a Blackburnian Warbler, a Mourning Warbler, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in late May. A **Tropical Parula** was seen in Portal, Arizona, in late June. Extremely rare were a **Blue-winged Warbler** and a Painted Bunting reported from northern Arizona in mid-May. A male Bay-breasted Warbler was reported from San Juan Co., New Mexico, in mid-May. A male Cape May Warbler visited Taos, New Mexico, in early June. A Prairie Warbler was in Custer Co., Colorado, in early June; another was in Albuquerque at the same time. A **Kentucky Warbler** was found near Phoenix in late June, while another was heard in northeast New Mexico mid-month. An apparent Audubon's x Grace's Warbler hybrid was described from northern Arizona in early June. A male **Canada Warbler** was photographed in Flagstaff, Arizona, in late May. Sycamore Canyon, near Nogales, Arizona, continued to be haunted by a **Rufous-capped Warbler** into July; another was reported in the Chiricahuas in mid-May. The male Flame-colored Tanager in Arizona's Madera Canyon was tending a nest with a female Western Tanager in June. Offspring of earlier mixed pairings, single apparent hybrid Flame-colored x Western Tanagers were seen in the Chiricahuas and the Huachucas. A male **Yellow Grosbeak** was in Sycamore Canyon, near Nogales, Arizona, in

mid-June. Up to 3 Painted Buntings were in Las Animas Co., Colorado, in mid-June. An Eastern Towhee was at New Mexico's Melrose migrant trap in May. An apparent hybrid Canyon x Abert's Towhee was photographed near Tucson in June. Two individual Hooded Orioles, the first records for Colorado, were found in Grand Junction in late May and in Montezuma Co. in mid-June. A female Baltimore Oriole was found in northeast Arizona in late May.



Upland Sandpiper, California.
© Ryan Terrill.

California

More than 100 Cook's Petrels were seen 55 miles off San Diego in late June; the removal of feral cats from the breeding islands off New Zealand has greatly increased this species' breeding success. More than 300,000 Sooty Shearwaters passed Point Pinos on a single early July day. An adult female Brown Booby was photographed in San Mateo Co. in early June.

Furnishing the state's first successful breeding record, a pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons had hatched 3 young in Imperial Beach by mid-June. A Mississippi Kite was photographed in Furnace Creek in late May. A Zone-tailed Hawk was in Santa Barbara Co. in early July. Single Crested Caracaras were reported from Point Reyes and from the Monterey Bay area in June. A Craveri's Murrelet found dead in San Diego Co., California, in mid-May was

nearly 2 months earlier than expected for this typically late-summer and fall visitor. A Horned Puffin was found beached in Santa Cruz Co., California, in May. Another, apparently healthy bird found in mid-June was the 5th for Monterey Bay this year and only the 7th non-winter record; an adult Horned Puffin was in Mendocino Co. in early July. An **Upland Sandpiper** spent 5 days in June in Kern Co. Two vocalizing Chimney Swifts were over Santa Barbara in late June.

An Eastern Wood-Pewee was singing in Solano Co. in early June. A Brown Thrasher in Arcata in early June was said to be just the 8th record for Humboldt Co. A Black-capped Chickadee in late June was a first for Trinity Co. A Yellow-throated Warbler was at a drip in San Diego in mid-May. A male Hooded Warbler lingered into late June in Sonoma Co. A pair of Painted Redstarts in the Laguna Mountains in early July were apparently breeding. A Summer Tanager nest in San Diego Co. represented a new site for this expanding breeding species. A Common Grackle visited Plumas Co. in mid-June; another was in Marin Co. Trinity Co.'s first Baltimore Oriole, a male, continued into early July.

Northwest

A Whooper Swan was at Nome, Alaska, in mid-June. The first at that site for more than 5 years, 4 **Common Pochards** spent mid-May on St. Paul Island, Alaska. A **Smew** was reported by wildlife biologists in Montana in mid-May; 2 Smeews were photographed on Adak in late May. Single Crested Caracaras were reported in coastal Washington in late May and in eastern Oregon in early June. Three Manx Shearwaters were at the mouth of the Columbia River in mid-May; another was on Tillamook Bay, Oregon, in late June. Astonishingly, a carcass picked up in mid-June near Laramie, Wyoming, was determined to be a **Streaked Shearwater**.

A male Magnificent Frigatebird over Sooke, British Columbia, in late June will be a first for the Victoria area if accepted.

A single late-May morning on Gambell produced 31 Ruffs, a new high count for North America. Other notable shorebirds there in May and early June included 3 Lesser Sand-Plovers, Common Greenshank, Long-toed Stint, a **Little Stint**, Gray-tailed Tattler, a **Black-tailed Godwit**, a Common Snipe, and displaying Wood Sandpipers; the last species occurred in startling numbers in western Alaska, with as many as 43 on St. Paul Island and at least 100 on Adak in May. St. Paul Island also hosted 15 Common Snipe and 3 Lesser Sand-Plovers; another Lesser Sand-Plover was on Adak, where a Gray-tailed Tattler was photographed in late May. A Bristle-thighed Curlew was reported in late May in Clatsop Co., Oregon; another at Iona Island, British Columbia, was reported as "possible." Southbound migrants at Delta, British Columbia, in early July included an adult White-rumped Sandpiper and a Bar-tailed Godwit.

A breeding-plumaged *Brachyramphus* murrelet inland in Kittitas Co., Washington, in late June was thought by the observers to be a Marbled Murrelet, a species currently undocumented any-

where in interior North America and extremely difficult to distinguish in summer from Long-billed Murrelet. An apparent Long-billed Murrelet was photographed on Adak in mid-May, while one photographed at St. Paul Island in early June was said to be approximately the 5th for Alaska. An Arctic Tern visited Grant Co., Washington, in late June. Single Ivory Gulls were notable in Anchorage in May and in Nome in June. A **Lesser Nighthawk** photographed at sea off Vancouver Island in early June will be a first for British Columbia and only the second for Canada if accepted; astonishingly, another—potentially Canada's third—was salvaged in late June in Vancouver.

An Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported from coastal British Columbia in late June. A che-bek'ing Least Flycatcher was at Nome, Alaska, in June. A **wood-pewee** photographed on St. Paul Island in late May was a first for the offshore Bering Sea region.



Lesser Nighthawk, British Columbia. © Mike Yip.

An Eastern Phoebe photographed in mid-May in Bonner Co., Idaho, was only about the third record for that state; another was in southeastern Washington at the same time. A Blue-headed Vireo reported from Malheur NWR will be an eighth Oregon record if accepted. A Sky Lark was on Gambell in June. A Violet-green Swallow appeared there in late May for a second island record. Absolutely extraordinary was a **Verdin** photographed in western Washington in late May; the species is previously undocumented anywhere north of the Mojave Desert. An Eye-browed

Thrush visited Saint Paul Island in late May, followed by another on Gambell in early June. A Phainopepla was reported from Oregon's Malheur NWR in mid-May.

A Blue-winged Warbler sang at Montana's Bowdoin NRW in late May. A male Northern Parula was at Oregon's Malheur NWR in June; a singing bird in Victoria in early June will be British Columbia's 7th if accepted. Two Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported from Montana in early June. An Ovenbird visited a Vancouver, British Columbia, park in late May. A male Canada Warbler was photographed at Oregon's Malheur NWR the end of May. A female Hooded Warbler in Calgary will be Alberta's sixth if accepted. An early-July Yellow-breasted Chat was said to be the third ever for the Victoria, British Columbia, area. A Hooded Oriole, first seen in late May, remained in Seattle into early July. A male Dickcissel visited a Vancouver Island feeder in late May. Usually rare in either state, high numbers of Dickcissels were reported in June from Montana and North Dakota. A male Lark Bunting in early June will be Vancouver Island's fourth record if accepted. A "Slate-colored" Junco was rare on St. Paul Island in late May, while early June saw a "Slate-colored" Junco and a Golden-crowned Sparrow at Gambell. A male Lawrence's Goldfinch briefly visited a Portland, Oregon, feeder in early June. A female-plumaged Common Rosefinch was observed over several early-June days at Gambell.