



Late autumn *Myiarchus* flycatchers in the east often turn out to be from the west. This Ash-throated Flycatcher in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, on December 7, 1991, was a case in point. On this bird the tail feathers are slightly disarranged, showing off the diagnostic pattern exceptionally well. Photograph/W. W. Harrington.



Talk about a winter wonderland: Gyrfalcon at St. John's, Newfoundland, on February 16, 1992. A record six Gyrs wintered around St. John's. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.



Birder/scholars made further progress in establishing that this yellow-legged gull was indeed a Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus cachinnans*) as the bird returned to Georgetown Reservoir, Washington, D.C., for another winter. This look at the wing pattern was captured February 17, 1992, by Mary Gustafson.



Le Conte's Sparrow at Gordon's Pond, Cape Henlopen, Delaware, on February 9, 1992. First state record. Photograph/Jim F. White.



(Right) In early December 1991, this Townsend's Warbler shared a thicket in Falmouth, Massachusetts, with two Blackpoll Warblers. The Townsend's established only a fourth state record, but the Blackpolls were so late that they could be considered equally unusual. Photograph/Simon Perkins.



(Left) Huge numbers of Common Redpolls were seen in southeastern Canada during the winter, but hardly any crossed the line into the northeastern United States. An anomaly was this lone bird that made it all the way south to Salisbury, Maryland, by March 8, 1992. Photograph/George M. Jett.



# PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Winter 1991-1992



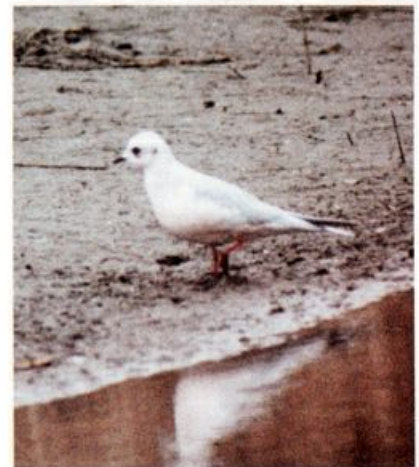
A major flight of Great Gray Owls brought record high numbers to some areas near the Great Lakes and notable numbers elsewhere. This bird present throughout February 1992 at Warren, Pennsylvania, was one of the most far-flung individuals. The first Great Gray ever seen alive in Pennsylvania, it drew literally thousands of observers. Photograph/Mary Gustafson.



The winter status of Broad-winged Hawk in Louisiana is still up for debate, but there was no question about this immature in Plaquemines Parish on December 29, 1991. Photograph/David Muth.



Stripe-headed Tanagers are almost regular visitors to Florida from the Bahamas, but still scarce enough to be exciting. This male in Goulds, north of Homestead, Florida, in January 1992, was one of three found in the state this season. Photograph/Ray Schwartz.

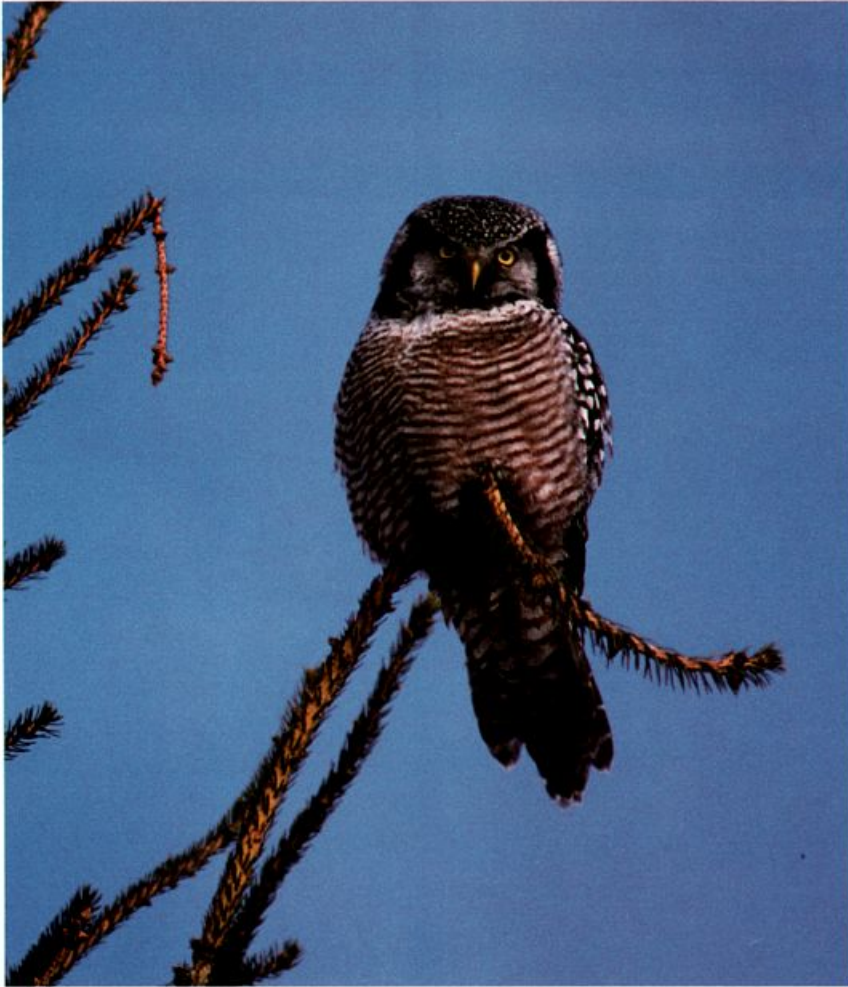


Two high-Arctic gulls furnished a highlight of the winter season in the upper Midwest. The immature Ivory Gull (left) at Chicago on January 2, 1992, was perhaps only the second to be documented in Illinois. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich. At the same time that the Ivory Gull was in Chicago, this adult Ross' Gull stunned birders at Riverlands Park, Alton Dam, Missouri. It provided a first state record. Photograph/David A. Easterla.

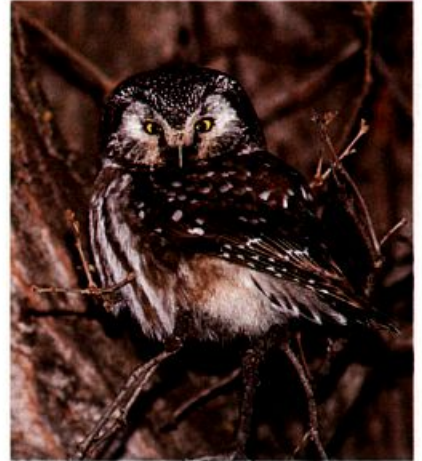


The Central Southern Region had a good scattering of Smith's Longspurs this season. This one was at a semi-traditional location, the airport at Stuttgart, Arkansas, on January 20, 1992. Photograph/Max Parker.





The winter saw one of the biggest flights ever for Northern Hawk Owl, especially from east-central Saskatchewan east through the Great Lakes regions to Quebec. This individual was near Elma, Manitoba, in February 1992. Photograph/Dennis Fast.



It was essentially a grand slam winter for northern owls, with some notable movement by every boreal species. This Boreal Owl turned up in Kleefeld, Manitoba, in February 1992. Photograph/Dennis Fast.



North America has only a handful of records of Slaty-backed Gull outside of Alaska, so the species was hardly expected in southern Texas, even at the famous Brownsville City Dump. This bird was photographed there on February 9, 1992. Back color, size (dwarfing the nearby Laughing Gulls), and wingtip pattern should be diagnostic for this species. Photograph/Chris Benesh.



Providing a first confirmed record for the United States was this Blue Mockingbird along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia, Arizona, on December 21, 1991. Photograph/Deb Treadway.



Green-breasted Mango at Corpus Christi, Texas, on January 9, 1992. First fully confirmed record for the United States, although one previous sighting of a mango in Texas undoubtedly referred to this species. Photograph/Greg Lasley.

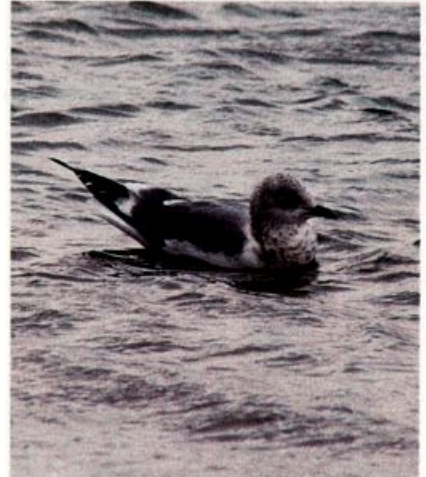


Aplomado Falcon in Presidio County, Texas, on January 29, 1992. This bird was present for weeks in this remote area, and was widely believed (even by those who did not see it) to be a genuine wild stray from Mexico. Photograph/Greg Lasley.





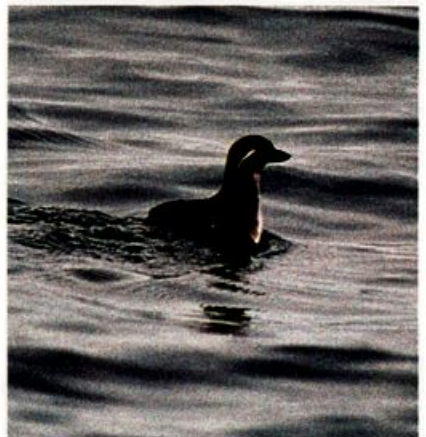
Several very rare visitors reached the Hawaiian Islands this season. This Sandwich Tern at Kahuku, Oahu, on January 10, 1992, represented a first record for the state. Photograph/Peter Donaldson.



This adult Mew Gull at Conchas Lake, New Mexico, on February 23, 1992, provided a first state record. The bird appeared to be of the North American form *brachyrhynchus*, as expected, not from the more distant European form *L. c. canus*. Photograph/Greg Lasley.



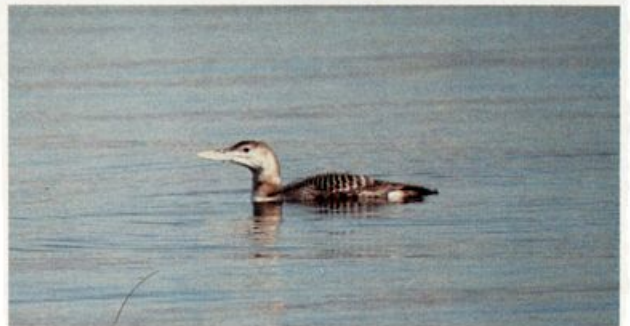
It seems that practically any North American migrant may eventually winter in California. This Philadelphia Vireo — possibly the first ever known to have overwintered successfully in the United States — was in Goleta, California, on February 16, 1992. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.



Parakeet Auklet is now a very rare winter visitor (perhaps formerly more regular) to California's offshore waters. This one was 74 nautical miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, on December 14, 1991. Seven others were seen farther south and much farther offshore in February. Photograph/Rod Norden.



Offshore visions: this immature Red-footed Booby was found 166 miles from land off southern California on February 1, 1992. Photograph/Peter Pyle.



Yellow-billed Loon in first-winter plumage on Lake Mead, Nevada, on December 22, 1992. The species is gradually being recorded in more and more inland areas, and this was apparently the first to be fully documented in Nevada. Photograph/Marian Cressman.