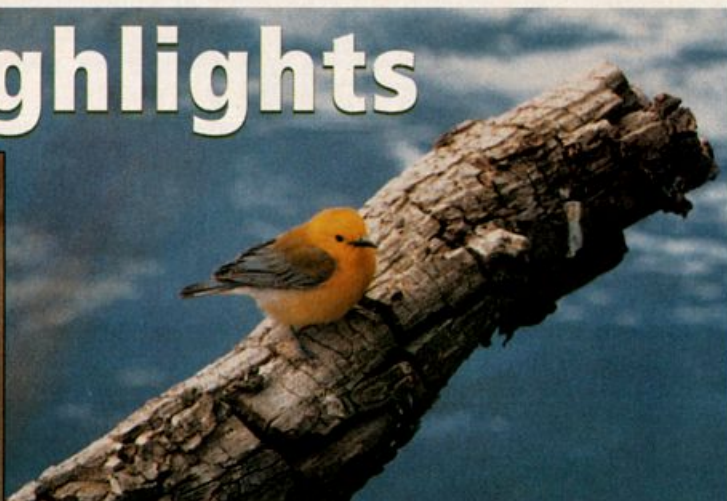


# pictorial highlights

These five photographs, from the Spring 1997 season in the Mountain West, should have appeared in our preceding issue. They were sent in on time by regional editors Van Truan and Brandon Percival, but were omitted through an oversight by the *Field Notes* editor (KK). Our apologies to the regional editors, photographers, and readers.



It was a good spring for eastern warblers in the Mountain West. This Prothonotary Warbler at Cheyenne, Wyoming, on May 17, 1997, established a fifth state record. Photograph/Robert Dorn



Field Sparrows are uncommon migrants in eastern Colorado, where this one was found at Lamar on May 6, 1997. This portrait shows just how pale the western race, *arenacea*, can appear in the field. Photograph/David A. Leatherman



Northern Saw-whet Owls are very rare on the eastern plains of Colorado, even as visitors, but the species may have nested at Fort Lyon, Bent County, where this juvenile was photographed on May 9, 1997. Wherever it was raised, the presence of fledged young on this date indicates that the eggs must have been laid no later than the first week of March. Photograph/David A. Leatherman



North of the normal range for the species was this male *Phainopepla* captured for banding at the Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, Utah, on May 30, 1997. Photograph/M. Chabot Halley



A rare sight—even more of a rarity than the bird itself—is a clear view of a Black Rail. This bird was at one of the few known Colorado sites, Bent's Fort marsh, on May 10, 1997. Photograph/David A. Leatherman



# pictorial highlights

As if to celebrate the splitting of the Solitary Vireo complex into three species, this Plumbeous Vireo appeared at Point Pelee, Ontario, on June 3, 1997. It established the first record for Ontario and about the ninth for eastern North America. Photograph/Jim Flynn



Two juvenile Great Black-backed Gulls at Little Bodkin Island, Maryland, on July 31, 1997. A large Common Tern colony and a heronry are present on this island; this year, Herring and Great Black-backed gulls were found nesting there for the first time, for the northernmost site known on Maryland's eastern shore. On these very young birds, note that the primaries are not yet fully grown. Photograph/Marshall J. Iliff



What is wrong with this picture? Well, most of us have never seen tall leafy trees in the same frame with a Snowy Owl. At Ashland, Wisconsin, this owl was bizarrely out of place for the season in early July 1997. Remarkably, the summer saw records of other Snowies far south of the tundra, in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and southern Ontario. Photograph/Dick Verch



Common Ravens seem to be doing well in the Appalachians. In Somerset County, southwestern Pennsylvania, a search during summer 1997 turned up six raven nests, mostly in abandoned stripmines like the one here. Photograph/Anthony J. Marich, Jr.



Quite possibly a genuine wild stray from South America was this Band-tailed (or Belcher's) Gull at Imperial Beach, California, on August 9, 1997. Regarding the English name of the species, Guy McCaskie writes: "The A.O.U. acknowledges the splitting of the Band-tailed Gull of South America into two species, *L. belcheri* along the Pacific and *L. atlanticus* on the Atlantic. They adopt Olog's Gull as the name for the Atlantic birds, but retain Band-tailed Gull for the Pacific population. However, Belcher's Gull for the Pacific birds eliminates confusion. The dark head on this basic-plumaged adult shows it to be Belcher's rather than Olog's Gull." Photograph/Ron Saldino



This summer saw good news on the Kirtland's Warbler front. The census in Michigan produced the second-highest total in the years since regular counts began, and Wisconsin had five territorial males, a new record. This one was in Marinette County, Wisconsin, on June 22, 1997. Photograph/Matthew Barber



Among Old World ducks, the Garganey is probably the most notable long-distance migrant, and it has demonstrated the ability to show up virtually anywhere in North America. A first for New Jersey was this male at the Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, in early June 1997. Photograph/Eric Breden



King Rails are now scarce and local in most northern parts of their range. The only actual report of nesting in the upper Midwest this season involved birds at Goose Lake Prairie Natural Area, Grundy County, Illinois, where this adult and young (above) were photographed on July 10, 1997. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich



Very unusual for the season so far south and inland, this Red-throated Loon was present for much of June at Tampier Slough Preserve near Chicago, Illinois. Summer loons in "winter" plumage like this often are one-year-old birds; since they do not breed at this age, they are more likely to appear away from the nesting range. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich

## nesting season



On July 7, 1997, over waters northeast of Sable Island, Nova Scotia, this Fea's Petrel was captured on film to establish a first record for Canada. Identification of this species has been considered controversial; a good recent treatment by Michael Tove appeared in the June 1997 issue of *Birding*. In this photo, the incomplete breast band would seem to rule out the Soft-plumaged Petrel of the southern hemisphere, while the bill may be too stout for the closely related Zino's Petrel. Photograph/Sascha Hooker



Another notable Arctic Tern far inland was this bird at Elephant Butte Lake, New Mexico, on July 3, 1997, establishing a third state record. The wing pattern, showing a very narrow black trailing edge on the primaries, shows on both the upperside and the underside of the wings here. Photograph/Jerry R. Oldenettel



From a past season, but still highly noteworthy, was this photo of an adult Little Egret on a nest at Graeme Hall Swamp, Barbados, in January 1996. Increasing records of Little Egrets in the eastern Caribbean—probably birds from the Iberia-to-west-Africa migratory pattern, boosted along by prevailing winds—may be linked to appearances of the species in eastern North America over the last two decades. Photograph/Edward Massiah



After the passage of Hurricane *Danny*, this small shearwater was brought in to Wildlife Rescue in Pensacola, Florida, on July 19, 1997. It was identified at the time as a Manx Shearwater, very rare in the Gulf of Mexico, although some aspects of the photos suggest the more likely Audubon's Shearwater. Photograph/Lois Case



Far inland was this Wilson's Plover in Prairie County, east-central Arkansas, on August 8, 1997. Found in late July, it furnished only a second state record. Photograph/Max Parker

In early summer, single Arctic Terns showed up at several scattered points south of the breeding range. This bird at Waukegan Beach, Illinois, on June 14, 1997, showed how strikingly short-legged this species can appear. Photograph/David B. Johnson

