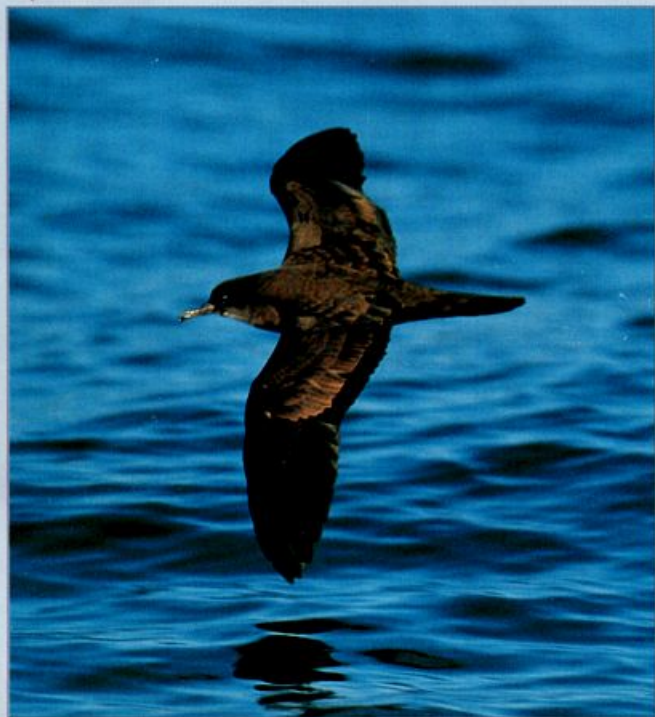
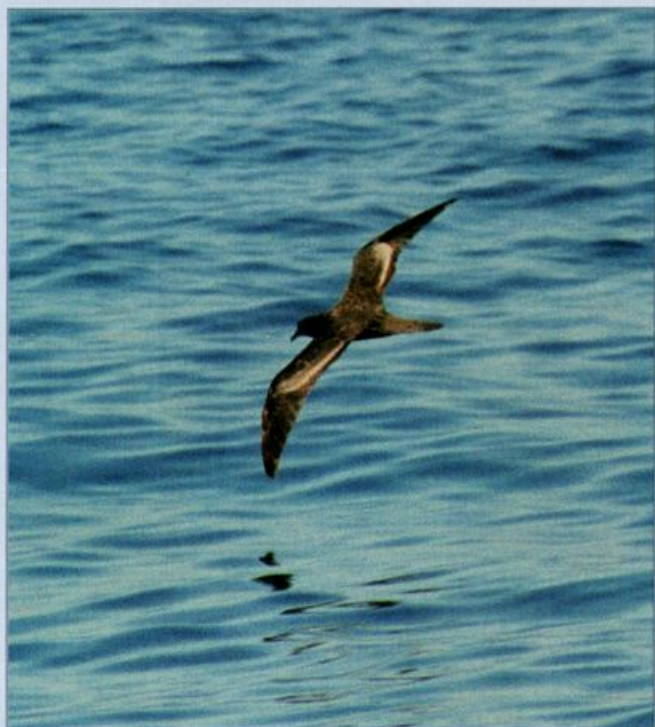


North American Birds

INCORPORATING FIELD NOTES

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION IN ALLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

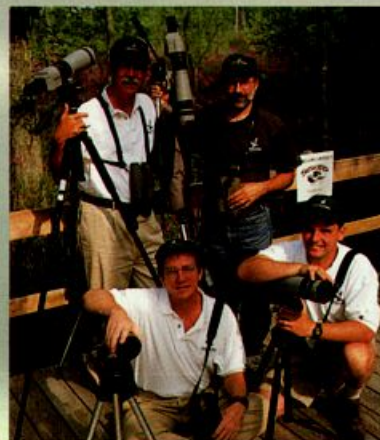


fall migration

VOLUME 53: NO. 1, 1999

AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER 1998

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ON THE COVER

Brown is beautiful. In autumn 1998, Pacific and Atlantic coasts alike recorded a host of nondescript but nonetheless very noteworthy tubenoses. In addition to several young Short-tailed Albatrosses, central California had records of Great-winged Petrel and Wedge-tailed Shearwater, both photographed in mid-October at Monterey Bay by J. Sorensen. On a single day (August 8) off North Carolina's coast, birding boats documented the first Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel (photographed off Hatteras by George Armistead) and Bulwer's Petrel (photographed off Oregon Inlet by Mary Gustafson) for the western North Atlantic waters of the United States. How any of these records might relate to atmospheric and oceanic patterns, such as hurricanes, or the transition from El Niño to La Niña, is not known.



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of our continent's birdlife,
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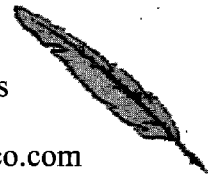
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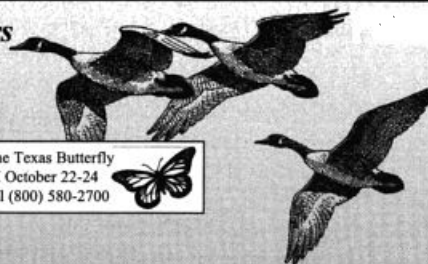


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June 10-19, 1999. Code R*

Contact: Ed Harper, Sandpiper Journeys, 4855 Cameron Ranch Drive, Sacramento, CA 95841-4315. (916) 971-3311; web_sms@pacbell.net

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September 24-October 14, 1999. Code A*

Contact: Bellbird Safaris, Inc. P.O.B. 158, Livermore, CO 80536; (800) 726-0656; fax (970) 498-9766; bellbird@jymis.com

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August 24-September 6, 1999. Code R/A*

Contact: Anna Grimmett at ABA, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934; (800)850-2473

COSTA RICA/PANAMA

Voyage aboard the *Yorktown Clipper* including Curu Wildlife Refuge, Marengo Biological Station, Darien Jungle, Panama Canal, plus two days of land birding from San José for ABA members only. ABA escort Henry Turner.

November 30-December 8, 1999. Code GB/OB**

Contact: Keri Flowers, Clipper Cruise Line, 7711 Benhomme Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105-1956; (800) 325-0010, ext. 174

MEXICO

Sonora: Sierra Madre for Lilac-crowned Parrot, Mountain Trogon, Black-throated Magpie-Jay, Purplish-backed Jay, Happy Wren. Led by Forrest Davis. September 18-25, 1999. Code R/A*

Contact: Forrest Davis at High Lonesome Ecotours, 570 S. Little Bear Trail, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635; (520) 458-9446; hilone@hilonesome.com

Sonora: Sea of Cortez, Sierra Madre, and Colonial Alamos. Expect 250+ species including Red-billed Tropicbird, Blue-footed Booby, Lilac-crowned Parrot, Purplish-backed Jay, Happy Wren, White-striped Woodcreeper, Black-throated Magpie-Jay. Led by Forrest Davis. October 5-16, 1999. Code R/A*

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ARGENTINA

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BRAZIL

Amazon, Pantanal, Cerrado, and Iguassu Falls. Harpy Eagle probable. Expect 350-500 species. Leader Miguel Castelino.

September 15-October 3, 1999. Code R/A*

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*Tour Codes and **Cruise Codes: are abbreviations for the following:

R = Relaxed

A = Advanced

I = Intensive

GB = General Birding

OB = Optimal Birding

ABA birding ethics

PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

I. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

- 1a. Support the protection of important bird habitat.
- 1b. • To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.
 - Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.
 - Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.
 - Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.
- 1c. Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1d. Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law and the rights of others.

- 2a. Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
- 2b. Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.
- 2c. Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

- 3a. Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.
- 3b. Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.
- 3c. If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care. Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

- 4a. Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.
- 4b. If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate

action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

- 4c. Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.
- 4d. Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.
- 4e. Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.
- 4f. Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g., no tape recorders allowed).
- 4g. Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

Please follow this code—distribute it and teach it to others.

Additional copies of the *Code of Birding Ethics* can be obtained from: ABA, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599, (800) 850-2473 or (719) 578-1614; fax: (800) 247-3329 or (719) 578-1480; e-mail: member@aba.org

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how to read the regional reports

Birds have no respect for range maps. Bird distribution in North America is constantly changing, as birds expand their ranges into new areas, disappear from former strongholds, or alter their patterns of migration.

Our knowledge of bird distribution is also changing constantly, as discoveries continue to come in. Keeping up with all these developments is a challenge for ornithologists, conservationists, and birders.

The Regional Reports, published four times a year, contain a wealth of information about North America's dynamic birdlife. When seeing the reports for the first time, they might appear difficult or technical, but they are not; anyone with any birding experience will find the reports easy to understand. We invite you to read the report from your area of the continent; we predict that the information there will alternately surprise you and confirm your ideas about birdlife in your region. To help you get started, here are answers to some questions that may occur to first-time readers.

WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION IS INCLUDED? DO THE REGIONAL EDITORS JUST REPORT EVERYTHING THAT'S REPORTED TO THEM?

Regional Editors do not report every sighting of every bird. Such a list would be huge, unwieldy, and not very useful. Instead, they solicit reports from as many observers as possible, screen the records for accuracy, choose those that are most significant, look for trends and patterns of occurrence, connect scattered bits of information, and ultimately come up with a concise, readable summary of the real bird news—the important avian events and trends of the season throughout their region.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY ABBREVIATIONS IN THE TEXT?

We abbreviate some frequently-used words and phrases to save space. Most of these are

easy to understand and remember. (See the list of abbreviations at the end of this section.) In addition to these standard abbreviations, some Regional Editors use shortened versions of the names of some birding hot spots; they list these local abbreviations in a separate paragraph, just after their introductory comments and just before their main species accounts.

WHAT DO THE INITIALS IN PARENTHESES MEAN?

Most records published in each report will be followed by initials, to indicate the source: the person(s) who found or reported the bird(s) mentioned. The initials may be followed by et al. (short for *et alia*, meaning "and others"), or preceded by *fide* (liter-

ally, "by the faith of"—meaning that this is a second-hand report, and the person initialed is the one who passed it along to the Regional Editor). A dagger (†) before the initials means that this person turned in written details on the sighting.

There are good reasons for giving credit to the observers involved. Readers may be reassured about the accuracy of surprising sightings if they know who the observers were; researchers who want to know more about a certain record may be able to contact the observers directly. In some cases, when a bird was seen by many birders, the Regional Editor may add "v.o." (for "various observers") or "m.ob." (for "many observers") after the first sets of initials.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO SEND IN THEIR SIGHTINGS?

All observers are invited to send in notes to their Regional Editors: details on rare sightings, species that were scarcer or more numerous than usual during the season, unusual concentrations or migration, and so on. Reading the reports for your region for a few seasons is the best way to find out what kinds of information are desired. Although the Regional Editors cannot cite every record that they receive, every

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BirdArea can list in detail the range of any bird. And it can produce check lists of the birds of all major world areas (i.e., U.S. states, Canadian provinces, nations, ABA regions/areas, important islands) with endemics labeled. Printouts allow multiple check marks and notes. Shawneen Finnegan's annually-updated ranges come from more than 700 publications in 10 languages and from many experts birding the areas.

If BirdBase is used BirdArea can label birds already seen on each check list, make lists of birds not already seen, and find any recorded sighting in which a bird is outside its known range. If BirdArea is used BirdBase can switch to displaying only birds whose ranges include any of the world areas when recording sightings of a trip to that area. This makes recording very much easier and calls to attention out-of-range sightings.

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how to read the regional reports

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

Abbreviations used in place names

In most regions, place names given in *italic* type are counties. Other abbreviations:

Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile (s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area

Abbreviations used in the names of birds:

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

Other abbreviations and symbols referring to birds:

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenile or juvenile
sp.	species
v.t.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

contributor helps them to produce a more thorough and accurate summary.

WHY ARE SOME BIRD NAMES IN HEAVIER OR BLACKER TYPE?

We use **boldface** type to draw attention to outstanding records of rare birds. General categories of birds that the Regional Editors would place in boldface would include: any species that has been recorded fewer than 10 times previously in a given state or province; any new breeding record for a state or province; or any bird totally outside established patterns of seasonal occurrence. (For the most part, records are not boldfaced unless they are backed up with solid details or photographs.) Birders who like to know about rare birds (and most of us do) can get a complete rundown of the season's outstanding rarities by scanning all the Regional Reports for those boldfaced birds.

WHY ARE SOME OF THE PLACE NAMES IN ITALIC TYPE?

In most of the regional reports, place names given in *italic* type refer to counties. (Italics represent parishes in Louisiana, and in parts of Ontario they may refer to districts or regional municipalities.)

WHAT ARE THE BOXES IN THE TEXT MARKED "SA"?

"SA" stands for "Special Attention" (and, by coincidence, is pronounced "essay"). The purpose of the boxed essays is to draw attention to particularly noteworthy phenomena or trends.

Likely SA topics include new population trends or new bird distribution patterns, unusual invasions or migration events, field research yielding new data, specific conservation problems that have an impact on birdlife, or detailed discussion of an outstanding (or perplexing) rare bird record. Experienced readers of *North American Birds* make it a point to flip through all the Regional Reports and read all the S.A.s, even in regions where they do not read the rest of the text.



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SUBMITTING PHOTOGRAPHS TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

The photographs that appear in the regional reports in *North American Birds* add much to the interest and information value of this journal. *North American Birds* does not pay for the use of photographs in this area, but we do provide the opportunity to share your photos with thousands of other active birders.

In each issue, about 20-25 of the photos submitted with the regional reports are selected to be printed in color, in a feature called "Pictorial Highlights." Generally these are very good photographs showing birds of exceptional interest—either very rare vagrants, or birds taking part in unusual invasions or migrations.

The best way to submit photos to *North American Birds* is to send them to the appropriate regional editor. To make things easier for these individuals (and for us), please label all photos clearly with the species, place, date, and your name. In particular, print your name legibly, as you would want it to appear in the photo credit. We also need to know the address to which photographs should be returned. All photos will be returned (to the regional editors or to the photographers), but it may take several months from the time they were submitted.

Either slides or prints can be reproduced in *North American Birds*, although given a choice we generally prefer slides. Photographs of either kind should be packaged so that they will not be bent or crushed in the mail. Prints should be labelled on the back, but not with ballpoint pen, which may damage the emulsion of the photograph. If felt tip pens are used for labelling, the prints should be separated with sheets of paper so that the ink from the back of one will not rub off on the face of another photo.

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