

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

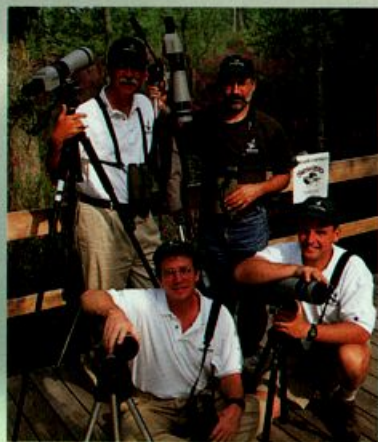


winter season

VOLUME 53: NO. 2, 1999

DECEMBER 1998 TO FEBRUARY 1999

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Clockwise from top John Fitzpatrick, Ken Rosenberg, Steve Kelling and Kevin McGowan

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ON THE COVER

Present in the Santa Ana Mountains of Orange County, California, January 29 until February 18, 1999, this male Gray Silky-flycatcher (*Ptilonotus cinereus*) was the subject of much debate. While its identity was amply confirmed by this evocative image, its origin remained uncertain since the closest known area of occurrence for this normally sedentary species is 650 miles distant in southeastern Sonora, Mexico. Consequently, the sighting is under review by the California Bird Records Committee, which has usually regarded previous records of this species as representing escaped cagebirds. Photograph/Kenneth Z. Kurland



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a complete overview
of the changing panorama
of our continent's birdlife,
including outstanding records, range extensions
and contractions, population dynamics,
and changes in migration patterns
or seasonal occurrence.

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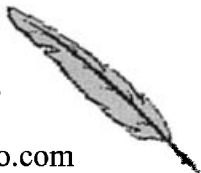
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CORRIGENDA

Spring 1999 *North American Birds* (Volume 53, No. 1)

Changing Seasons report:

On page 18, the Oldsquaw concentration was at Point Beach, Wisconsin (not Iowa).

In the table on page 18 and in the Hudson-Delaware report (p. 37), the 40 Franklin's Gulls reported from Cape May, November 14, 1998, is inclusive of the 28 tallied that day at the Avalon Seawatch.

Summer 1998 *Field Notes* (Volume 52, No. 2)

On pages 150 and 155 of the Bristle-thighed Curlew article, references were made to Karen Castelein. Her correct first name, however, is Kathy.

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Antarctica

ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA, and FALKLAND ISLANDS

Cruise for *birders only* aboard the *M/S Explorer* featuring penguin colonies, sea and land birds of the Antarctica, and sub-Antarctica regions. Leaders Victor Emanuel, Steve Hilty, and Greg Lasley. **January 22–February 9, 2000. Code OB***

Contact: Shirley Ander or Greg Lopez, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, P. O. Box 33008, Austin, TX 78764; (800) 328-VENT; fax (512) 328-2912; VENTBIRD@aol.com

Africa

ZIMBABWE AND BOTSWANA

Birding safari through the wildlands of southern Africa; Save Conservancy and Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe's Lowveld, the mountain forest at Chirinda, miombo woodland near Harare, and Victoria Falls. Tented safari from Chobe in Savuti and Moremi in Botswana. High standard of accommodation. Led by Derek Solomon and Chuck Bell. **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

KENYA

Private tenting safari visiting Meru NP, Mt. Kenya, Laikipia Plains, Lake Baringo and Maasai Mara. Expect 400–500 bird species plus fifty mammals. Led by Peter Alden, a charter member of ABA. **March 1–16, 2000. Code R/A***

Contact: Lauren Woodhouse, Siemer & Hand Travel, 750 Battery Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111; (800) 451-4321

Asia/Middle East

ISRAEL AND JORDAN

Spring migration. Includes Eilat, Tiberias, Mt. Hermon, Azraq Reserve, Petra, and Jerusalem. Covers all the best natural and ancient biblical sites. Led by Vernon Laux.

March 23–April 7, 2000. Code R/A*

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Contact: Elizabeth Omski, Inca Floats, 1311-ABA 63rd Street, Emeryville, CA 94608; (510) 420-1550; fax (510) 420-0947; incafloats@aol.com

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 Bonhomme 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***

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

ARGENTINA

Four major regions, including Tropical Lowland Rainforest, Pampas, Patagonia, and Tierra del Fuego. 360 species possible. Leader Michael Carmody. **September 19–October 2, 1999. Code A***

Contact: Susan Carmody, Legacy Tours, P.O. Box 12540, Olympia, WA 98508; Tollfree phone/fax (888) 754-6186

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***

Contact: Doug Trent, Focus Tours Inc., 103 Moya Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505; (505) 466-4688

TRINIDAD AND ORINOCO RIVER

Millennium cruise aboard the *Yorktown Clipper* visiting Curacao, Bonaive, Isle Margarita,

Tobago, four days exploring the Orinoco River, and Trinidad. ABA escort Bill Murphy, author of *A Birder's Guide to Trinidad and Tobago*. Bill Murphy will also lead a special extension for ABA members on Trinidad which includes three nights at the Asa Wright Nature Center. Cruise dates **December 24, 1999–January 7, 2000**. Extension dates **January 7–11, 2000**.

Cruise contact: Keri Flowers, Clipper Cruise Line, 7711 Bonhomme Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105; (800) 325-0010

Extension contact: Bill Murphy, 8625 Glengarry Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46236-8383; (317) 826-2556

Hawaii, South Pacific, and Australasia

HAWAII AND MIDWAY ISLAND

Complete coverage of endemic and introduced species on all major Hawaiian Islands plus an extension to recently opened Midway Island. Leader Doug Pratt, author of *Birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific*.

October 18–November 7, 1999. Code A*

Contact: Dave Blanton, Voyagers, P.O. Box 915, Ithaca, NY 14851. (800) 633-0299; vicki@voyagers.com

NEW ZEALAND

North, South, and Stewart Islands, plus three offshore trips for coastal and pelagic species. Expect more than 50 endemics in this land of unique and endangered avifauna. Comfortable accommodations. Led by Tony and Ken Wilson. **October 31–November 18, 1999. Code A***

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EUROPE

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Four- to seven-day tours, including pelagics and owling. Target species include Eleanora's and Barbary Falcons, Hubara Bustard, and White-faced Storm-petrel. Nine endemic species plus twelve endemic sub-species. Led by Eduardo Garcia del Rey. **Code A/I**

Contact: Eduardo Garcia del Rey, Aves Ecotours, c/Fdo. Barajas Vilchez 9, 38004 s/c de Tenerife, Spain 011-34-922-27-99-58; fax 011-34-922-22-16-69; avescot@redkbs.com

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

R = Relaxed

A = Advanced

I = Intensive

GB = General Birding

OB = Optimal Birding

**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.

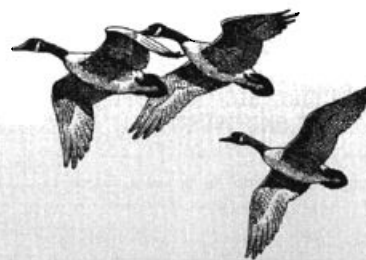
The best way to submit photos to *North American Birds* is to send them to the appropriate regional editor. To make things easier for these individuals (and for us), please label all photos clearly with the species, place, date, and your name. In particular, print your name legibly, as you would want 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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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 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

(continued on page 138)



White-faced Storm-Petrel, ©Brian Patteson

For more information contact Brian Patteson, Inc. P. O. Box 772 • Hatteras, North Carolina 27943 (252) 986-1363 or visit us on the web at <http://www.patteson.com>

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- New for 1999—back to back White-faced Storm-Petrel search trips from Oregon Inlet on August 22 and 23 and 29 and 30.

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 juvenal
sp.	species
v.t.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

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 conser-

vation 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 SAs, even in regions where they do not read the rest of the text.



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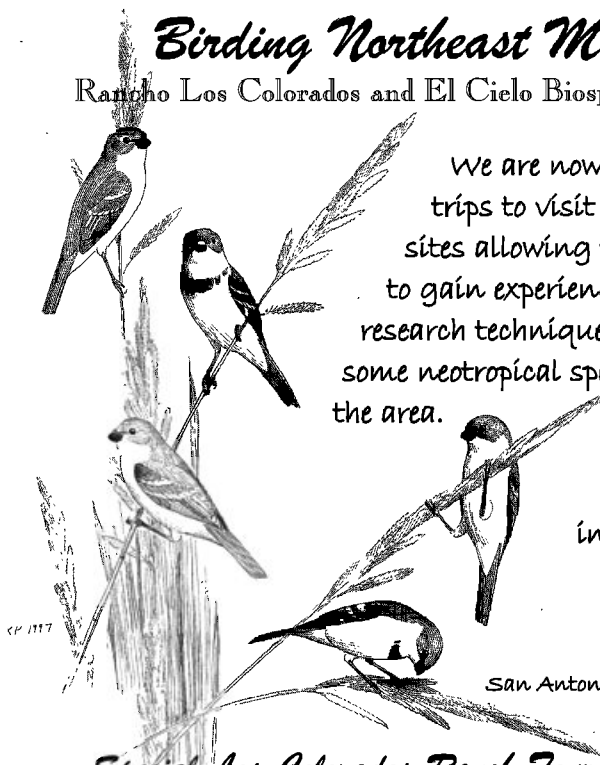
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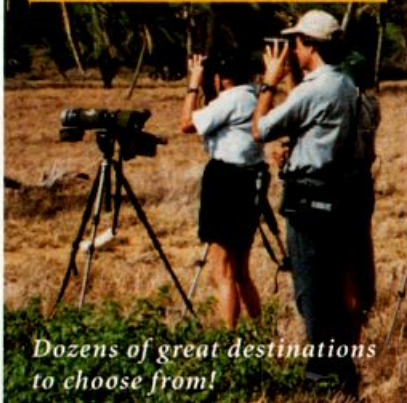
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 Greater Sundas
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 7-30 July

INDONESIA #2
 South Maluku (Moluccas)
 Seram, Buru, Ambon
 Tanimbar, Kai
 2 August - 3 September

2000 BIRDING TOURS

THAILAND
 North, Central, Peninsular
 8-30 January

SOUTH INDIA/ ANDAMAN ISLANDS
 6-29 January

SRI LANKA
 28 January - 14 February

PHILIPPINES
 Luzon, Mindanao, Cebu, Palawan, Bohol, Negros
 4 February - 6 March

WEST BURMA
 Mt. Victoria, Chin Hills
 10 March - 2 April

BHUTAN
 West to East Traverse
 7-30 April

CHINA #1
 Beidaihe Migration
 4-20 May

CHINA #2
 Manchuria
 Inner Mongolia
 17 May - 11 June