

# PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



This young male Vermilion Flycatcher graced Parc de la Pointe-aux-Prairies from 28 October to 2 November 2001 (here 30 October); it was Québec's first and one of the northernmost records anywhere (cf. <http://www.vdn.ca/~ledy/portfolio1e.html>). Photograph by Yves LeDuc.



This first-year male Summer Tanager at Baie-Saint-Paul was one of two in Québec in November this fall and remained from 19 to at least 30 November. Photograph by Michele Lafleur.



An enviable find in North America anywhere away from the Pacific coast, much less in New Jersey, was this Pacific Golden-Plover, a species known from only one other eastern record (1911 in Maine), as well as others from Iceland, Europe, Barbados, Bermuda, and Greenland. Originally found by Richard Crossley 4 September 2001, it accompanied up to 45 American Golden-Plovers and two Baird's, seven Pectoral, and 11 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at the Johnson Sod Farms in Salem County over its 11-day stay. Photograph by Michael Stubblefield.



This Serin (*Serinus serinus*) was photographed at Fort Tilden, Brooklyn, New York, on 29 September 2001. Though popular as a cage bird, the species has been expanding its range across western Europe in recent decades, and long-distance vagrancy is conceivable. Photograph by Steve Nanz.



This Great White Heron at Fort McHenry, Baltimore City, Maryland was present 26-30 September 2001, a first for Maryland. This season saw a noteworthy invasion of Great Whites, with others in New Jersey in late May and June, Staten Island, New York in September, and Long Island in September and October. Photograph by Marshall J. Illiff.



A juvenile Surf-bird was one of several unusual shorebirds found by Chris Charlesworth at Salmon Arm, British Columbia on 7 September 2001. This bird provided the first interior record for the province. Photograph (from kayak!) by Donald G. Cecile.



This Hammond's Flycatcher, another New York first, received careful scrutiny after its discovery by John Fritz at Jones Beach, Long Island 26 October 2001. It remained another day, long enough to provide a meal for a Merlin. *Photograph by Angus Wilson.*



Every year, small numbers of Northern Wheatears show up on the Atlantic seaboard, and occasionally a few turn up away from the coast as well. This bird at Great Meadows, New Jersey, remained for six days 16-21 September (photographed here on the last day of its stay). *Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.*



This female Harlequin Duck, a rare find in interior Pennsylvania, put down on a small pond in Richmond Township, Warren County, on 18 October 2001. *Photograph by Bob Scribner.*



Providing the eighth Minnesota record was this Band-tailed Pigeon at Golden Valley, Hennepin County, 18-20 October 2001. *Photograph by David A. Cahlander.*



This male Flame-colored Tanager frequented a bird bath in the Davis Mountains of Texas 1-5 October 2001, the third Flame-colored to be discovered in Texas and the first in the fall. *Photograph by Kelly Bryan.*



Oregon's second Shy Albatross was seen at Perpetua Bank 7 October 2001. Records of members of this not-so-shy complex have been increasing off California, and observers have attempted to determine the subspecific identity of each bird. The complex is split into as many as four species by ornithologists in the southern hemisphere, and it's possible that all have now occurred in the northern hemisphere! *Photograph by Bruce Craig.*

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This adult Townsend's Solitaire at West Beach, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was photographed 28 October 2001; present for just two days, it provided Indiana with its fourth record of the species.

*Photograph by Jeffrey J. McCoy.*



Florida's second Flammulated Owl was found dehydrated on a condominium balcony 9 November 2001 at Navarre Beach, Santa Rosa County. It was released three days later in a forested tract in northern Escambia County.

*Photograph by Lucy R. Duncan.*



The most exciting capture made at the Idaho Bird Observatory's banding station near Boise, Idaho in fall 2001 was the state's first Blackburnian Warbler, a first-fall female banded 2 September by Jay Carlisle.

*Photograph by Ryan Brady.*

A surprise in banding nets within the Bon Secour N.W.R. near Fort Morgan, Baldwin County, Alabama, this Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Alabama's third, was banded by a research team from University of Southern Mississippi on 15 September 2001.

*Photograph by Jeffrey Farrington.*





Up to four *baueri* Bar-tailed Godwits visited Tokeland, Washington this fall. Formerly a vagrant, Bar-taileds have been annual during the last decade among Willapa Bay's large Marbled Godwit roosts. This bird was captured on film at Tokeland on 13 October 2001. Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.



At least five Ruddy Ground-Doves of the *eluta* subspecies were present around Blythe, Riverside County, California in November 2001. This male was photographed on 9 December 2001. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.



The mouth of the Mad River at McKinleyville, Humboldt County, California hosted this fine juvenile Common Greenshank from 27 August until 15 September 2001, the first record for the state and first for the Pacific coast south of Alaska. Photograph by Larry Sansone.



This male Western Spindalis entertained hundreds during its stay at Cape Florida State Park, Florida, 14-26 November 2001 (here 15 November). Formerly a subspecies of Stripe-headed Tanager, this species is near-regular stray from the nearby Bahamas. Photograph by Carmen Tarantino.



Recorded in double-digit numbers in the Middle Pacific Coast Region this fall, Buff-breasted Sandpipers were well documented from several locations. One of these two at Salinas, Monterey County, 9 September 2001 was engaged in some stunning territorial behavior, a strange sight from juveniles during fall migration but often observed on the wintering grounds in southern South America. Photograph by John Sorensen.

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Like many vagrant landbirds found this fall in Baja California, this Philadelphia Vireo at Punta Banda on 10 October 2001 was feeding in lerp-infested *Eucalyptus* trees. This was the third Regional record and the first of three found during the season. Photograph from digital video by Robert A. Hamilton.



Among many outstanding records from Belize's Caye Caulker this fall was an immature male Yellow-headed Blackbird seen 23 September-1 October. Though there are three other reports of the species from Belize, this individual was thought to be the first of wild origin there. Photograph by James Beveridge.



Following the bounty of Calliope Hummingbirds out of range in fall 2000 and winter 2000-2001, perhaps the two immature males that appeared 17 November 2001 in Fort Tryon Park, New York City should not have surprised Big Apple birders. A two-bird first record for the state, they remained through the season, permitting hundreds a chance to study the subtleties of identifying *Stellula*. In particular, note the white in the lores (unlike Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds), the short bill and short tail with little rufous, the pale buffy underparts, and the slight projection of the wingtips past the tail (unlike *Selasphorus*). Photographs by Sean Sime/Housewren (righthand three images) and Michael Stubblefield (all others).



San Clemente Island has received intensive coverage by ornithologist-birders in recent seasons, and several observers have worked to document their finds with photographs, a small number of which from fall 2001 we present here. A Cassin's Sparrow (center), casual in California and secretive in migration, was found 2 November. A Cape May Warbler (upper left), also a first for San Clemente Island, was found 20 October and remained a week at Lemon Tank, the only standing fresh water on the island and an excellent migrant trap—boasting 24 species of warbler this fall. A hatch-year Broad-winged Hawk (lower left) at Lemon Tank 31 October was the first for the California Channel Islands. Rare but regular fall transients along the California coast, Broad-winged Hawks avoid most water crossings, making this bird's appearance here surprising. Of two Blackburnian Warblers found on 4 October, this male (bottom), a second island record, was at Wilson Canyon, while a Summer Tanager (lower right) on 6 October was a second island record and likewise one of two found this season. Bobolinks (right) were rather numerous, with eight recorded this fall; this one was at Horse Beach Canyon 23 September. An immature female Lucy's Warbler (upper right) 2-7 November was an island first, as was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (top) 3 September, both at Lemon Tank. *Photographs by John Brollini (upper right) Brian L. Sullivan (all others).*

In the Bering Sea, at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, more birding coverage, including a few pioneering autumn birding tours, is providing some fascinating fresh information on seabird movements and concentrations, as well as on misplaced migrants from Asia and North America. Lehman's recent stints at Gambell have produced many outstanding records such as Yellow-browed Warbler (*N. A. B.* 54: 117-120), but of equal interest are records of North American megavagrants here, such as this Tennessee Warbler (lower left) and "Western" Flycatcher (lower right), noted 22 and 1-2 September, respectively. The warbler was a first for any location in western Alaska; the flycatcher was, remarkably, the island's second record. A rare sight for any birder was this male McKay's Bunting in fresh definitive basic plumage (upper right), on its way to the wintering grounds 22 September, but the star of the season was surely the striking Siberian Accentor (upper left), still casual in Alaska, present 21-26 September (here recorded on its first day). *Photographs from video by Paul E. Lehman.*

