

# Pictorial Highlights



The first Calliope Hummingbird for Massachusetts, and for the states of New England, turned up at a feeder in Eastham in November 2002, where it remained through year's end. Records of this species from states east of typical range have been accruing rapidly in the past four years, and most are detected in the autumn. *Photograph by Jeremiah Trimble.*



This adult male Summer Tanager was a rare visitor to Thornhill, Ontario 3-10 December 2002; another turned up at a feeder nearby 18 January 2003, possibly the same individual. Despite the harsh cold in the East and Midwest, most Regions reported hardy lingerers of this "caliber." *Photograph by Marilyn Ginsburg.*



A rather sudden surge of Painted Buntings has been turning up out of range at feeders across the United States in recent winters, comparable in scope if not scale to the vagrancy of western hummingbirds. This male attended feeders in Lower Makefield Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania from at least 11 December 2002 (here) into February 2003. *Photograph by Forrest and Mary Coburn.*



A four-year gull with similarities to the *vegae* form of Herring Gull (sometimes split as Vega Gull or Siberian Gull) turned up on Christmas Eve 2002 on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Virginia. This bird was dissimilar to suspected Herring Gull hybrids with both Great Black-backed Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull, but the possibility of backcrosses—such as are documented with Louisiana's breeding Kelp Gull x Herring Gull hybrids on the Chandeleur islands—makes confident identification of odd dark-backed four-year gulls nearly impossible without a specimen. *Photograph by Edward S. Brinkley.*



The first Allen's Hummingbird for North Carolina—long expected after similar records in nearby Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, and Delaware—was present at a Manteo feeder from 19 January 2003 into spring but was identified only 11 March, when banded and here photographed. *Photograph by Susan Campbell.*



A Sage Thrasher at Elliott Wildlife Center in Newton County, Georgia 19 (here) to 20 December 2002 was the state's first with documentation and a rarity anywhere in the East. *Photograph by Dan Vickers.*



The first Hermit Warbler for Illinois was discovered by Eric Secker at the Morton Arboretum in Chicago 8 December 2002; the bird remained through at least 12 December, to be seen by many. Photograph by Jeffrey J. Mc Coy.



Providing a winter first for Alberta, the nominate-race Palm Warbler discovered at Calgary 8 January 2003 tried to survive at the water discharge outlet of a local fish hatchery. Also new to the provincial winter list were Northern Waterthrush and Wilson's Warbler. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.



This Cape May Warbler, photographed at High River, Alberta 21 December 2002, was one of an unprecedented six species of warbler reported in the Prairie Provinces Region this winter, most of them in the warmer western provinces. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.



Up to four Grasshopper Sparrows wintered in fields in Niland, Imperial County, California, with this bird being photographed on 9 February 2003. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.



This Golden-crowned Warbler, present on the University of Texas-Pan-AM campus in Edinburg, Texas all winter season, was by far the most easily studied of those documented in Texas. This photograph was taken 29 December 2002. Photograph by Jim Burns.



A female Varied Thrush at Pueblo City Park, Pueblo County, Colorado (here 30 January 2003) was one of five reported in the Mountain West Region this winter. This one stayed in the area 27 December 2002 through the end of the period. Varied Thrushes were recorded in high numbers out of range in many regions. Photograph by Bill Maynard.



Another first photographic record for Arizona was this Hooded Oriole at Tumacacori 20 December 2002, a bright bird of a race other than the expected *nelsoni*, possibly a nominate *cucullatus*. Photograph by Rich Hoyer.



Looked over carefully was this Ash-throated Flycatcher at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, McCurtain County, Oklahoma during January 2003 (here photographed on the 7th), a first winter record for the Southern Great Plains Region. Photograph by David Arbour.



A Le Conte's Sparrow in Niland, Imperial County was the first to winter in southeastern California; it was uncharacteristically cooperative, as this pose on 15 January 2003 suggests. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.



This controversial *Myiarchus* flycatcher, photographed on 11 January 2003, spent the winter in Santa Cruz, in Santa Cruz County, California. Though some observers believed the bird to be California's second Nutting's Flycatcher, it is unclear that Ash-throated Flycatcher can be safely ruled out in this case. Photograph by Kevin McKereghan.



A suburban shopping center parking lot was the favorite haunt of this female Rusty Blackbird, which returned to winter in Goleta, Santa Barbara County, California in winter 2002-2003 (here 24 January). Photograph by Peter Gaede.



This Emperor Goose—found from an Elkhorn Slough Safari boat in Monterey Bay, California 29 December 2002—was enjoyed by many before apparently being shot by a hunter on 7 January 2003 (here 3 January). Photograph by Bill Hill.



This pair of Wood Ducks at Parque de la Armistad near the Otay border crossing 29 January 2003—two of three present in Tijuana through 8 March 2003—were the first photographed in the Baja California Peninsula Region. The species has a toehold in Mexico but is threatened by legalized hunting (see the Mexico Region's report as well). Photograph by Richard A. Erickson.



An elusive species and one sparse in its distribution in Central America, Crested Eagle is rarely seen in the northern fringe of its range, much less photographed well, and most recent reports are undocumented. This image was captured by digiscoping at Tikal, Guatemala 24 February 2003. Photograph by James Leupold.



Bermuda's first Reddish Egret was found 22 December 2002 at Somerset Long Bay (here 1 January 2003). A somewhat elusive bird, it was still present in April 2003. Photograph by Andrew Dobson.



Among northern irruptive species in winter 2002-2003, few flights were more impressive than those of Cedar Waxwings and Golden-crowned Kinglets, which stretched well into Mexico and beyond. This Golden-crowned Kinglet, one of two in the area, was banded 28 February 2003 at Llano Grande in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, a first documented state record. Photograph by Manuel Grosselet.



A poorly-known species endemic to northern Mexico, Worthen's Sparrow has received increasing attention from birders and ornithologists in recent years, and flocks of up to 150 were noted in winter 2002-2003 in Nuevo León state. This bird was photographed 9 February 2003 at Las Esperanzas. Photograph by Antonio Hidalgo.



A star of the season in Hawaii in winter 2002-2003 was this drake Baikal Teal at Hanalei, Kauai Island present from 9 December through season's end (here 3 January 2003). Photograph by Alvaro Jaramillo.