

# Pictorial Highlights



Rare anywhere in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, a Gull-billed Tern at Renew's, Newfoundland 9 July 2003 provided a first provincial record of this southerly species. Photograph by Stuart Tingley.



This Common Tern, apparently of the Siberian race *longipennis*, was seen at Stone Harbor Point, New Jersey 14 July 2003. The fully black bill and dark brownish legs in conjunction with nearly full black cap are typical of *longipennis*, as is the relatively dark gray shade of the underparts. The white-flecked forehead and rather pale primaries with low contrast between fresh and worn feathers are suggestive of a bird in its third calendar year. Digiscoped photograph by Michael O'Brien.



Unexpected was this migrant Arctic Tern at Holbrook Reservoir, Otero County, Colorado 18 June 2003; only a few dozen records of the species are known for the interior West. Photograph by Van Truan.



White-winged Terns cause a stir wherever they appear in North America. This bird on Laudholm Farms in Wells, York County, Maine 13–14 (here 14) June 2003 was the state's (stunning) first. Photograph by Chad Dorsey.



New Jersey was the place to be this summer for seeing unusual shorebirds and terns in the East. In addition to high counts of Roseate Tern, several Arctic Terns were found at Stone Harbor Point. This Arctic was photographed 2 July 2003, in the company of an alternate-plumage adult. Its dull bill, faint carpal bar, and dark primaries suggest a bird in second alternate plumage—a plumage rarely seen by land-bound birders and even more rarely so well photographed. Digiscoped photograph by Michael O'Brien.



Reddish Egrets taunted observers in the Middle Atlantic with brief appearances in June, but this bird—a relatively cooperative state first 5–17 July 2003 on the Charlestown Breachway, Rhode Island—later moved to Westport, Massachusetts, then back to Rhode Island from 20 (here) to 27 July at Little Compton. Photograph by Geoff Dennis.





This nearly adult Yellow-legged Gull at La Malbaie, Québec 14 June 2003 looks rather small and dark, which might suggest one of the Atlantic forms, but experts familiar with the species have remained cautious about subspecific identification in this case. This bird represents the second for the Region—the first was from the Madeleine Islands in August 1973 and was the first documented in North America. Photograph by Yann Kolbeinsson.



An exciting find anywhere at any time in North America, this Black-tailed Gull on the shore of Lake Michigan at Shoop Park, Racine, Wisconsin provided the first record for the state and the Western Great Lakes region. Assumedly, this same individual remained in the region throughout the summer and visited several nearby states (here 12 June 2003). Photograph by Eric R. Howe.



Found not too far from the Little Stint at Stone Harbor Point, New Jersey (see the cover of this issue), this adult Red-necked Stint in fading alternate plumage was a one-day wonder at Two Mile Landing 21 July 2003. Photograph by Michael O'Brien.



One of several Little Stints noted in the Lower 48 states this year, this bird at the Minot sewage lagoons in North Dakota provided a first state record of this fetching calidrid 4 to 5 (here) July 2003. Photograph by Steven Easley.



This apparent MacGillivray's Warbler was captured and banded 4 June 2003 at Kaiser-Manitou Beach, Braddock Bay, New York. The bird shows the dark lores and eye-arcs normally associated with MacGillivray's, although measurements were closer to Mourning Warbler. Similar birds with weak eye-arcs, all identified by vocalizations as Mourning Warblers, have been found on territory in nearby Seneca and Wayne Counties in the past. Photograph by Laurie Zigmester.



First reported as a so-called Sutton's Warbler (hybrid Northern Parula x Yellow-throated Warbler), this bird spent the summer in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, New Jersey (here 30 June 2003). The bird shows several features of Yellow-throated Warbler, including the yellow throat, bold white lower eye-arc contrasting with black auriculars, and grayish dorsal color. However, the black necklace of streaking across the chest, incomplete supercilium in front of the eye, and amount of black across tail-tip indicate mixed parentage. Several observers guessed Magnolia Warbler or Myrtle Warbler as the second parent. Photograph by George Nixon.





Rufous Hummingbirds and other western species have become expected visitors to the Midwest and East in fall and winter, but this adult male Rufous Hummingbird in alternate plumage—nicely photographed 28 July 2003 in Springfield, Illinois—was part of an early wave east of normal range. *Photograph by Travis Mahon.*



The "Big Easy"—New Orleans, Louisiana—was the site of the state's first documented nesting of Gray Kingbird, a pair with three young present from 5 (here) to 21 July 2003. *Photograph by David P. Muth.*



This male Western Tanager sang at Paint Lake Provincial Park, Manitoba (near Thompson) 11 June 2003. There are other records of apparently territorial birds in central and northern Manitoba, but breeding has not been confirmed there. *Photograph by Jay VanderGaast.*



The Mountain Plover, a candidate for listing as a federally Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, did not receive listing in 2003, despite its small, declining population of perhaps as few as 5000 individuals. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service withdrew its proposal on grounds that the species is more numerous than previously thought. This bird was photographed on nesting grounds near Phillips County, Montana 23 May 2003. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.*



A Reddish Egret located at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge from 21 June to 4 July (here) 2003 afforded the first documentation for the species in Kansas and the Southern Great Plains region. *Photograph by Kevin Groeneweg.*



A serendipitous find was this Painted Redstart in a campground at Coldwater Lake, Comanche County, Kansas 23–29 June 2003, a first for the state and the Southern Great Plains region. *Photograph by Kevin Groeneweg.*





Two Green Violet-ears attended a feeder this spring and summer near Johnson City, Blanco County, Texas. First noted 19 May, both remained through the summer season, the first instance in which two individuals of this species frequented the same location (north of Mexico, that is).  
*Photograph by John Kormendy.*



Golden-cheeked Warblers have been reported irregularly in late summer from Big Bend National Park, Texas. However, this hatch-year male, photographed in the Chisos Mountains 29 June 2003, provided the first fully documented record for the Trans-Pecos.  
*Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.*



This Siberian Rubythroat was photographed at Nome on 14 June 2003, providing the first documented record for Mainland Alaska.  
*Photograph by Gary Rosenberg.*



This male Brambling was one of 10 found at Gambell, Alaska during early June 2003 (here 3 June). *Photograph by Gary H. Rosenberg.*



Providing the first record for Costa Rica and one of the few for the western Caribbean Sea, this Cory's Shearwater was found dying on the beach at Tortuguero on 8 March 2003 and died the next day.  
*Photographer unknown.*



Increasing attention to the offshore waters around the Hawaiian islands has produced numerous records of rare tubenoses. This Buller's Shearwater was a very nice find off the island of Oahu 9 June 2003.  
*Photograph by Hadoram Shirihai.*



Oregon's much-anticipated first White-rumped Sandpiper appeared at the mouth of the New River 1 July 2003 and followed multiple May/June records from elsewhere in the Far West. *Videocapture by David Lauten.*