

Pictorial Highlights



Three Pink-footed Geese spent most of February 2005 (here 18 February) in Pictou Harbour, Nova Scotia, attracting birders from as far away as Ontario and New York. The geese had previously been spotted in early January on nearby Prince Edward Island but were first identified correctly in Nova Scotia. Photograph by Richard Stern.



Is Western Meadowlark an undetected vagrant along the East Coast? This bird (inset, bottom) inland near Neguac furnished New Brunswick's sixth record (and second for the Acadian Peninsula), present early December 2004–10 April 2005 (here 10 January). Above, an Eastern Meadowlark was photographed on 21 January 2005 at Mount Herbert, Prince Edward Island, where rare in winter. Note the comparative paleness of the Western, even in fresh plumage, and its different pattern of barring on the rectrices and tertials. Photographs by Clay Merrithew (top) and Dwaine Oakley.



This Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch of the *tephrocotis* subspecies group frequented the feeder of John Somerset near Chelmsford, Sudbury County, Ontario 19 December 2004–25 (here 5) February 2005; the species is very rare in the province. Although essentially unknown east of Ontario, a bird of this same subspecies group (*L. t. littoralis*) spent the winter of 1936–1937 at Gorham, Maine. Photograph by Chris J. Escott.



Potentially representing the Atlantic Coast's first record, this Glaucous-winged Gull was studied 24 February (here) through 6 March 2005 at productive Quidi Vidi Lake, St. John's, Newfoundland. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.



California Gull, very rare in the East north of Chesapeake Bay, was detected 3 January 2005 on Polpis Road, Nantucket and relocated on Hooper Farm Road 6 (here 8) January. The mottled brown body plumage, a mix of feather patterns in the mantle and scapulars, and the pale patch on bend of the wing form by bleached, worn lesser and median wing coverts help distinguish this bird from a small Herring Gull. The dark-based greater coverts with broad pale edgings, visible on the flying bird, form a pale bar along the base of the secondaries.

Photograph by Jeremiah Trimble.



Part of a widespread movement of the species east of typical winter range, this male Varied Thrush was photographed in River Vale, New Jersey 12 December 2004.

Photograph by Kevin Watson.



This Redwing in Topsail, Newfoundland ate mountain ash berries put in a feeder for an American Robin 3 (here)–5 February 2005, providing an 8th provincial record. A Redwing seen 15 km away on 5 January 2005 was thought to be the same individual. In comparison to the Washington state bird, this bird's breast streaking is noticeably heavier and less distinct, possibly indicating the Icelandic race *coburni*. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.



Although there are records of the species from as near as New York City (in 1959), Redwing was not expected to turn up in Pennsylvania. This bird, found by young Jessica Huff at Peace Valley Park, Bucks County (here 2 February 2005), was seen by about 50 (ranging in age from 14 months to over 80!) birders during its one-day stay.

Photograph from videotape by Devich Farbotnik.



Gene Revelas was stunned when this Redwing appeared in his Olympia, Washington yard 21 December 2004. It remained through 24 February 2005 (here 11 January). Few would have guessed that western North America's first Redwing would appear in Washington rather than Alaska! Photograph by Keith Brady.



Representing the first record for the well-birded Point Pelee area, this Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Hillman Marsh, Essex County, Ontario was found 5 December 2004 (here) but died that night or next day; examination of the specimen indicated that it was of the nominate subspecies, a long-distance South American migrant. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*



Canada's first *Pyrrhuloxia* was this female near Eagle, Elgin County, Ontario (here 3 December 2004). Though this mostly sedentary species would seem an implausible candidate for natural vagrancy so far north, there was a small "flight" of *Pyrrhuloxias* out of range in late autumn 2004. *Photograph by Barry Cheriére.*



An overdue first for Pennsylvania, MacGillivray's Warbler made its state debut in Maxatawny Township, Berks County 18–20 (here 19) December 2004. *Photograph by Devich Farbotnik.*



A first for Kentucky, this male Bullock's Oriole was present from some time in mid-January 2005 through the winter period (here 5 February) in Anderson County.

Photograph by David Roemer.



This Sedge Wren on the Grand Junction, Colorado Christmas Bird Count 19 (here 30) December 2004 remained for the winter season—furnishing the first Mesa County record, the first West Slope record, and the first wintering record for the Colorado & Wyoming region.

Photograph by Christopher L. Wood.



The highlight of season in the Great Basin was Utah's first Rufous-backed Robin, discovered in an apple orchard near Springdale, Washington County, Utah 18 (here 22) December 2004 during the Zion Christmas Bird Count. It remained through New Year's Eve day to be enjoyed by many Utah birders. *Photograph by Rick Fridell.*



This Tufted Flycatcher was photographed along the Colorado River near Lake Mohave, Arizona 24 February 2005 by a visiting birder—a first Arizona record of this mostly Mexican species. *Photograph by Steven Servantez.*



Arizona's second Le Conte's Sparrow was located 19 December 2004 along the Santa Cruz River in Marana, where it remained through 9 February 2005.

Photograph by David Stejskal.



This Falcated Duck frequented Coburg, Lane County, Oregon for much of the winter (here 1 February 2005); it may be the same bird that played hide-and-seek with observers at nearby Fern Ridge Reservoir last winter, Oregon's first.

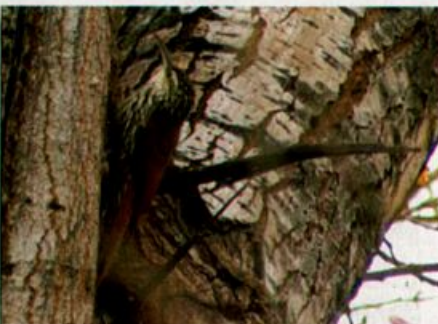
Photograph by Peter Patricelli.



This first-winter male Orchard Oriole in Isla Vista, Santa Barbara County, California was known to be present for only three days, this photograph being taken on 22 December 2004, the second day of that short stay. *Photograph by Wes Fritz.*



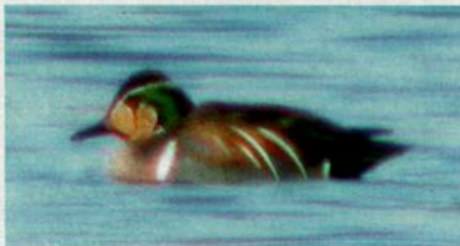
This female Blue Seedeater mist-netted in Volcanes National Park 28 January 2005 was the first of this highly nomadic species record in the park since October 1979. *Photograph by Jennifer R. Smith.*



This White-striped Woodcreeper was located 1 (here 2) January 2005 near La Presa, Chihuahua. The bird frequented the cottonwoods of a riparian area along the side of a reservoir that serves Casa de Janos and Ejido San Pedro. There are no records of this endemic, usually found in pine-oak forests, for northern Chihuahua, but the species may occur regularly in the little-birded Mesa de Guacamayas close to La Presa. This location is only 70 km from the U.S. border. *Photograph by Steve Cox.*



One of a very few to be found in California at this time of year, this Elegant Tern associated with Royal Terns on the coast of La Jolla, San Diego County, in mid- (here 15) January 2005. *Photograph by Lyann Comrack.*



A male Baikal Teal graced the Kent Ponds south of Seattle 10 (here 14) December 2004–1 February 2005, providing Washington's second record. As with Falcated Duck, there are very few accepted reports of this striking species in North America away from Alaska. *Photograph by Keith Brady.*



Washington state's second Cape May Warbler appeared at a Spokane suet feeder from mid-January 2005 through the end of winter (here 13 February); the other state record is from 1985. *Photograph by Tom Munson.*



Representing the first confirmed record for Mexico, these immature male Barrow's Goldeneyes were found near Algodones in extreme northeastern Baja California 6 January 2005 (here). They associated with up to 131 Common Goldeneyes and lingered for most of the month. *Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.*



This Kirtland's Warbler found by Eric Amos on the Bermuda Christmas Bird Count 18 December 2004 was a first for the island—and first anywhere away from the Bahamas in winter. It was the island's 39th warbler species and remained through the next day, to be enjoyed by many. *Photograph by Eric J. R. Amos.*



Bermuda's reputation as a magnet for off-course migrants from four continents is well known. Some of these migrants also remain to winter after appearing in autumn. This Townsend's Warbler, a second for Bermuda in winter, was found by Bruce Lorhan along Orange Valley Road 19 December 2004 and remained through at least 16 (here 13) February 2005. *Photograph by Ian Fisher.*



Yellow-breasted Crake is not often observed in Puerto Rico, where it is an uncommon permanent resident of freshwater wetlands. This bird frequented a wetland mitigation project near Humacao 27 January 2005, one of several heard at that location. *Photograph by Edward S. Brinkley.*