

Editors' Notebook

How else can we put it? Thank you, immensely, to the generous donations to The Friends of North American Birds Fund, which enjoyed another record-breaking year in 2005. The fund, which may soon top \$40,000 since its inception in 2002, has literally given the journal a new life, providing the financial stability to showcase twice as many articles and photographs (up to 250 images per issue) as before, new features such as the Photo Salon, expanded Changing Seasons essays, and a sturdy wrapper for safe mailing. We finished the year in black ink, our favorite color, and even have some to spare for 2006. For this issue, we are delighted to present in detail some of the more amazing discoveries from Pacific offshore waters, including potentially three new species for North America: Ringed Storm-Petrel, Parkinson's Petrel, and Solander's Petrel. We could not resist inclusion of a final seabird, Lesser Frigatebird, just North America's second, which paid a visit to Michigan (and who knows where else?) after Hurricane *Katrina*.

This journal's value in documenting—and disseminating news about—changes in bird migration, vagrancy, breeding distribution, and storm-related mortality, among other aspects of their natural history—has never been more compelling and clear than it is in this era of global warming, of ferocious tropical cyclones, and dramatic fluctuations in ocean currents and communities. Although the portrait we have painted of 2005's fascinating fall season is incomplete, as every deadline-driven history must be, we hope that it allows the continent's birders to see that all their hard work in documenting local birds has a home, a context, a value for fellow and future birders and ornithologists. Without the common ground that this journal provides, all those records of the Chimney Swifts scattered by Hurricane *Wilma*, from Barbados to France, would remain unconnected, buried in notebooks or cyber-archives. Because we do live in such changeable times, technologically and climatologically, we are able as never before to record what we observe and to pass our understanding to posterity. The support of our subscribers and our supporters makes that mission possible—and we thank, too, all of you who have encouraged friends and colleagues to subscribe: nothing is so uplifting as the chance to deepen the collaborative work

The "Friends of North American Birds" 2005

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of this journal through a new subscription.

Changing of the Guard

For the past six years, I have resisted the temptation to misprint our Photo Editor's name as *Matte Sharp*. After yeoman's work,

truly, in bringing the photographs we receive into a format compatible with the printing process and paper we use, assembling and editing captions, and corresponding with hundreds of photographs, Matt Sharp has decided to pass the baton and to devote more time to teaching his two-year-old son, Miller, the finer points of birding and other great activities. Matt has weathered, with aplomb, what was perhaps the most trying and awkward period of this journal's photographic history: not the addition of color to the mostly black-and-white format (which occurred in 1976) but the uneven, six-year transition from dealing primarily with print and slide material, as we did until fairly recently, to dealing almost exclusively with digital imagery—now over 99% of our submissions—a medium that has increased photographic submissions by about 500% in four years. Few, other than people who work in publishing, will appreciate all the changes of the recent years: scanners and other hardware have evolved rapidly (and some have now become almost obsolete!); software packages, both for handling images and for publishing, are outdated almost as soon as one starts to gain proficiency with them; and then there are the digital images themselves, which have been a blessing, in most respects, but a challenge in many others: we receive a fair number of digital images second-hand, without real certainty about their photographer, location, date, or degree of manipulation. And so with the deluge of very nice digital material now streaming in by email, the Photo Editor's task has often been to track down the sources of mystery material, a time-consuming affair to say the least. Matt has always taken the bull by the horns, scoffed at the setbacks, and kept abreast of the latest technological advances, often in consultation with Bryan Patrick, Ed Rother, and Jim Harris, who are responsible for the layout of the journal. From all of us who work on the journal: it has been a great experience working with good-natured Matt, and we wish him the very best in all future endeavors!

Taking over the Photo Editor's desk is a familiar friend of the journal, Brian Sullivan, who has been a steadfast contributor of records for 15 years. Brian's past work has included hard-core full-season raptor censuses, from the Great Lakes to Cape May to the Chesapeake Bay; bird surveys of many sorts,

East and West; and lately extensive photography, editing, and writing on bird-related topics. His current employment takes advantage of his energy and versatility: he is the western Project Leader of the audacious eBird initiative (<www.ebird.org>), familiar to readers of the journal, and is also Photo Editor for the equally remarkable Birds of North America On-line. Needless to say, we're excited to have Brian on board as co-worker. Please send him photographic material through your regional editor(s) or to him directly at heraldpetrel@gmail.com (or to: Brian L. Sullivan, 612 Larkin Street, Monterey, California 93940).

It is long overdue that our Associate Editors group had a Canadian birder in its ranks, and we are pleased to announce here that Alan Wormington, who works both as a biological consultant and birding tour guide, will join the team. He currently lives in Point Pelee serves on the Ontario Bird Records Committee and is a past member of the ABA Checklist Committee. Alan is known to many as a subregional editor, since 1978, for this journal and as a frequent contributor of records and photographs to its pages. He is an avid birder across the continent but is particularly fond of Ontario and Texas. His recent stints have included the Zeiss Search for Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Louisiana in 2002 and three seasons offshore in the Gulf of Mexico in the Migration-over-the-Gulf Project sponsored by Louisiana State University. Welcome, Alan, and we hope to print fewer Canadian corrigenda in the future!

Correction Corners

An error in the caption for the cover photograph for the Nesting Season issue (Vol. 59, No. 4) was corrected by many botanically aware Kansans. Though the American Three-toed Woodpecker in Morton County, Kansas was found very near one of the few large mesquites in the state, it foraged not in mesquite but Plains Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides monilifera*), the tree on which it was photographed, and Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*). The previous issue, Vol. 59, No. 3, has a lamentable error on page 461: rather than Randy Pinkston, Eric Carpenter should

have been listed as co-author to the Texas/Spring Migration column. Our sincere apologies to Eric for the inadvertent switch!

In matters more minor, but no less incorrect, two reports of Band-rumped Storm-Petrels require correction, one 17 September 2004 (Barbour County, Alabama; N.A.B. 59: 91; a typographic error for Wilson's Storm-Petrel), the other 19 September 2003 (in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania; N.A.B. 58: 51; undocumented). In the same order, the Audubon's Shearwater driven by Hurricane Dennis to Kentucky Lake, Kentucky 12 July 2005 (N.A.B. 59: 555) should have been listed as the first confirmed inland for the *United States*, not for the continent: Alan Wormington notes that a specimen (CMN 62529) is extant from Almonte, Ontario, a bird found 8 September 1975 following the decay of Hurricane *Caroline* to the south, over eastern Kentucky. The specimen was first identified as the nominate subspecies but later re-identified as the less-expected southern Caribbean subspecies *loyemilleri*. In addition, there are a few unconfirmed reports of the species (or of small black-and-white shearwaters) inland elsewhere.

A photograph of a Stygian Owl (N.A.B. 59: 661) was identified correctly but was an image of a fledgling, not an adult. Several sentences (N.A.B. 59: 558 and 588) implied that Ross's Goose was not known to nest in Ontario until 2005; what should have been indicated is that atlasers found and documented the first *actual nests* of Ross's Goose in the province. And finally, there are three corrections to be made for tyrannids: a bird photographed in Suffolk, Virginia 7 June 2005 was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, not a Swallow-tailed Kite, as published (N.A.B. 59: 579); a Least Flycatcher nest said to be the first for Kentucky was in fact the second documented in the state (N.A.B. 59: 607); and a Gray Flycatcher reported to be the first for Alberta (N.A.B. 59: 614), was in fact the second, the first having been found in Calgary 1-20 July 1999. Thanks to Paul Hess, Sam Sinderson, Brainard Palmer-Ball, and Andrew Slater for sending these corrections.

—Edward S. Brinkley

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

*	specimen collected
+	bird(s) seen through end of period
†	written details on file
A.F.B.	Air Force Base
acc.	accepted by records committee
A.R.C.	Avian Records Committee
b.	banded
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
B.O.	Bird Observatory
B.R.C.	Bird Records Committee
C.A.	Conservation Area
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
C.P.	County Park
cm	centimeter(s)
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
G.C.	Golf Course
G.P.	Game Preserve
Hwy.	Highway
I. (Is.)	Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (Imms.)	immature(s)
Jct.	Junction
juv. (juvs.)	juv. (plumage); juvenile(s)
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mm	millimeter(s)
m.ob.	many (or multiple) observers
Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain (Mountains)
N.A.	Nature Area, Natural Area
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.S.	National Seashore
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
p.a.	pending acceptance
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
ph.	photographed (by + initials)
Pl.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
R.A.	Recreation(al) Area
R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
R.P.	Regional Park
R.S.	Regional Shoreline
Res.	Reservoir
Rte.	Route
S.B.	State Beach
S.F.	State Forest
S.G.A.	State Game Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
S.R.	State Reserve
S.W.A.	State Wildlife Area
S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant/Pond
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
Twp.	Township
v.r.	voice recording (by + initials)
vt.	videotape (by + initials)
W.A.	Wildlife Area
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste)water Treatment Plant/Pond

Friends of NAB, American Birding Association, 4945 N. 30th Street, Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80919, www.americanbirding.org/pubs/nab/friends.html