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THE WINTER SEASON

North American Birds

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION



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On the cover: This adult four-year gull, found 11 February 2006 off the coast of Long Island, New York, was ultimately identified as a Western Gull of the nominate subspecies. Western Gull is very rarely recorded away from the immediate Pacific coastline, and many gull experts have believed it an unlikely candidate for vagrancy to the East. However, there are a few well-documented records from the continent's interior, as far east as Chicago. Discussions of this gull via the Internet were extensive, and, as of press time, authorities on gull identification appear to support the identification as Western Gull strongly. Photograph by Martin Lofgren.





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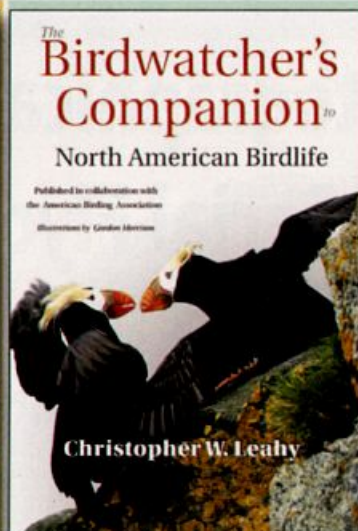
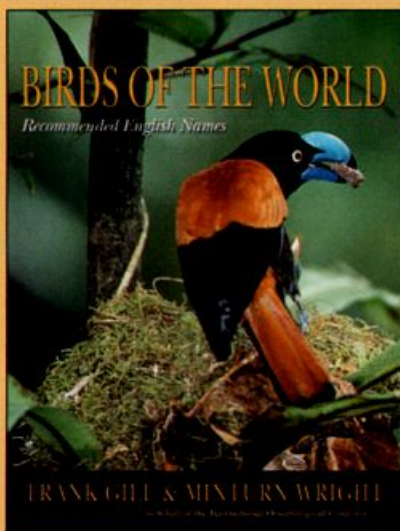
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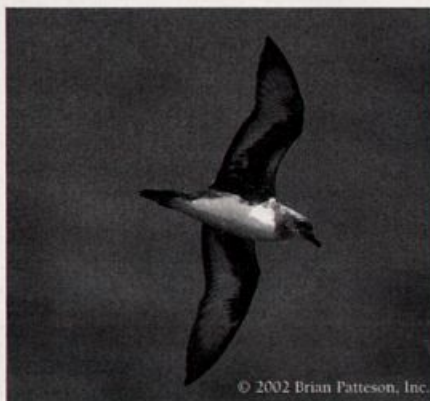


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Editors' Notebook

"These synoptic weather maps were reproduced incorrectly in Figure 5, A–H, of the Changing Seasons essay by Stephen Dinsmore and Andrew Farnsworth, *North American Birds* 60: 17. We apologize to these authors, and the readers, for the printing error and hope everyone will go back and read the article anew, with these corrected maps."

—The Editors

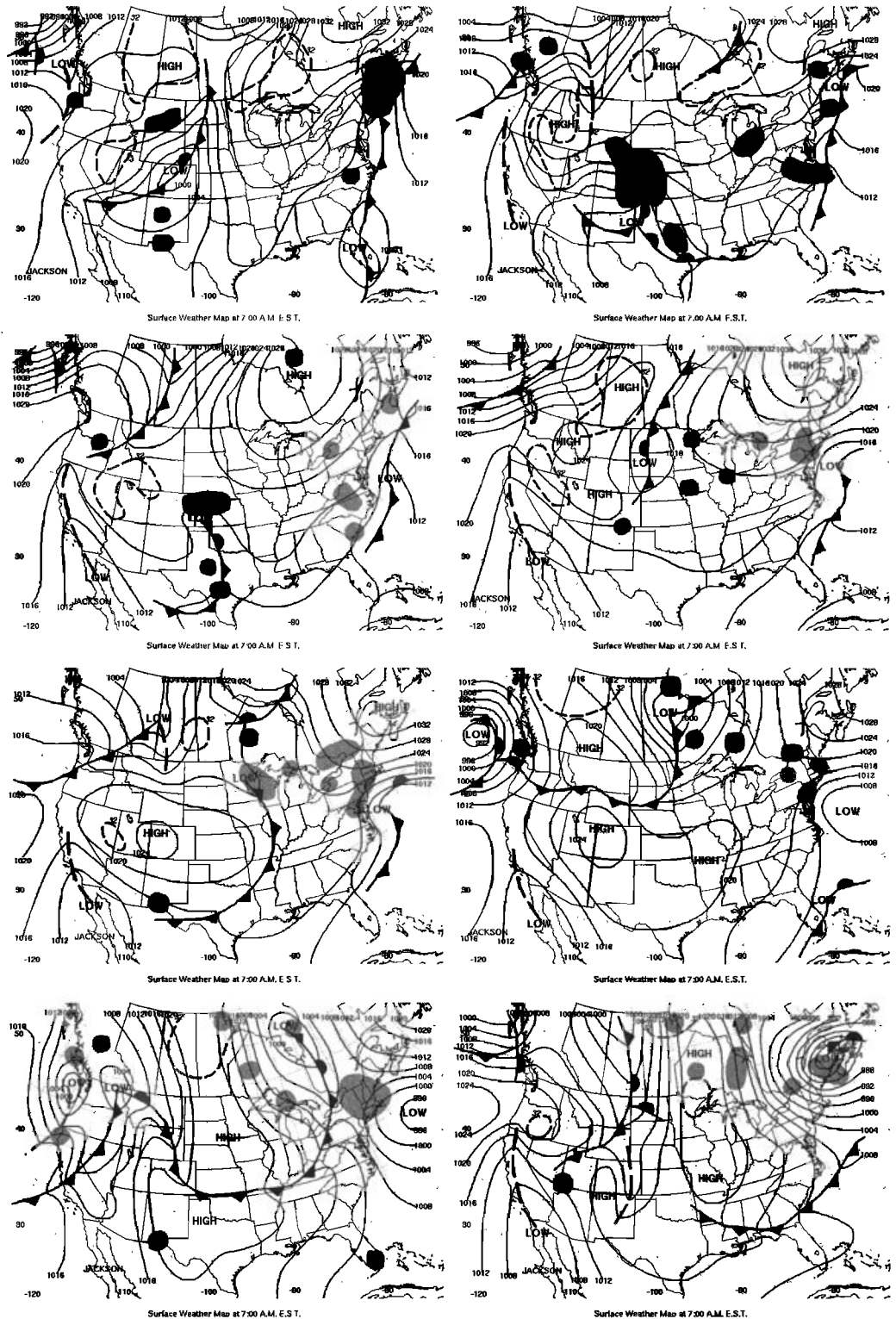


Figure 5 A–H. A mosaic of synoptic maps showing the 0700 Eastern Standard time positions of progression and occlusion of frontal boundaries on dates in 2005: A) 9 October, B) 10 October, C) 11 October, D) 12 October, E) 13 October, F) 14 October, G) 15 October, and H) 16 October. The first six (A–F) maps show a frontal boundary that has stalled off the Atlantic coast. To the west of the front, winds are generally northerly and easterly, with scattered precipitation visible on each day. By 15–16 October (maps G, H), low pressure off the coast of New England has intensified and started to move northward and eastward out of the region. Simultaneously, a stronger cold front approaches from the west, creating conditions favorable for a large-scale movement of birds.

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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.)	juvenile (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)
Pt.	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

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SHORT TRIPS FOR TARGET SPECIES

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Springtime in Texas Hill Country

Designed as a pre-tour for the Lafayette Convention, this trip begins and ends in San Antonio on the edge of the Edwards Plateau. The Hill Country is Texas' most beautiful natural region. The targets are two very special endangered species, the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo, both of which restrict their entire breeding range to the plateau. In addition to these two gems, we will seek out other Texas specialties such as the Green Kingfisher, Golden-fronted Woodpecker and Cave Swallow. A special visit to the Frio River Bat Cave will treat us to the evening exodus of 10 million Free-tailed Bats. **17-22 April 2007. Contact: Stephen Shunk, Paradise Birding, (541) 408-1753 or steve@paradisebirding.com.**

Trans-Gulf Migration Watch—Mississippi and Mobile Bay, Alabama

In conjunction with the Lafayette Convention, WINGS has arranged a pre-tour to maximize the birding opportunities along the central flyway with leader Gavin Bieber. Witness the miracle and spectacle of migration in one of the best places in the United States: the central Gulf Coast. As millions of birds make their way to their breeding grounds by crossing the Gulf of Mexico, we will be in good position for the opportunity to experience a "fall-out". The coastal areas of Fort Morgan peninsula and Dauphin Island also offer excellent access to water and migrant shorebirds. After taking in one of North America's busiest banding stations, we will bird along the coast, stopping at the largest remaining patch of coastal Long-leaf Pine forest on the Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR. **19-23 April 2007. Contact: WINGS, www.wingsbirds.com or 888.293.6443.**

East Texas Woodpeckers & High Island Migrants

Join woodpecker expert Steve Shunk of Paradise Birding on a quest for seven of the Lone Star State's ten nesting woodpecker species (see two of the remaining three on our pre-tour!). We'll spend two nights in the Pineywoods to look for Red-cockaded, Red-headed, Red-bellied plus Hairy, Downy, Flicker and Pileated. This habitat also hosts Hooded and Pine Warblers, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Bachman's Sparrow. Our other two nights will have us based on the upper Texas coast with visits to Brazos Bend, Quintana Sanctuary, High Island, Bolivar Flats and Anahuac Refuge. This trip is timed to see hordes of migrants, including Yellow-bellied and Acadian Flycatchers, plus 20 different warblers and nearly two dozen shorebird species. **30 April-4 May 2007. Contact: Stephen Shunk, Paradise Birding, (541) 408-1753, or steve@paradisebirding.com.**

Spring Warbler Migration in Tennessee

Join John C. Robinson, author of the "Annotated Check-list of the Birds of Tennessee", for the spring bird migration in the heartland of the eastern US. Once experienced, no one can forget the eastern warblers—one of the most highly sought-after group of birds in North America. Learn to identify them by sight and by sound, a technique that John uses on all his tours. Destinations include Cross Creeks and Reelfoot NWR's. Mississippi Kite, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 20 plus species of warblers, and Orchard Oriole should be seen. **6-11 May 2007. Contact: On My Mountain, 5055 Business Center Drive, Suite 108, Box 110, Fairfield CA 94534, www.OnMyMountain.com/aba, (707) 864-8279.**

MEXICO

Mazatlan and the Durango Road

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Neblina Forest is offering pre and post tours to the conference as well to accommodate the attendees for additional trips while in Ecuador. Destinations include Pichincha (antipittas galore), Napo Wildlife Center (observation towers, parrot licks) and Garenio Lodge (target species: Harpy Eagle). All trips will begin and end at the conference hotel. **Contact: Neblina Forest, www.neblinaforest.com, info@neblinaforest.com, (800) 538-2149.**

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Norfolk for migrant warblers. A boat charter for offshore seabird passages is included, plus visits to other RSPB reserves for maximum observations. **19-27 September 2007. Contact and leader: Neil Donaghy, Celtic Bird Tours, Birds@celtic-tours.org.uk, 044-1615-645-709.**

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This customized trip is designed to see the maximum numbers of birds in the height of southward migration from Europe to Africa. There is no better place to see the spectacle of hundreds of migrating birds and raptors! Visit rocky habitats and marshlands for endemics as well. **Fall 2007. Contact: Siemer & Hand Travel, www.siemerhand.com, travel@siemerhand.com, (800) 451-4321.**

AFRICA

Cape of Good Hope to the Limpopo Bushveld via Kruger Park

Discover the landscape of floral beauty that is home to a host of highly localized SA endemic birds species such as the Cape Sugarbird and the Orange-breasted Sunbird. The Cape Peninsula provides excellent pelagic birding to the south, and the Great Karoo to the north. The second leg takes us to Johannesburg, and in search of the Big Six—Martial Eagle, Lappet-faced Vulture, Saddle-billed Stork, Kori Bustard, Ground Hornbill and if we're lucky, the Pel's Fishing Owl. **10-25 February 2007. Contact: Avian Leisure Birding & Wildlife Safaris, www.avian-leisure.com, enquiries@avianleisure.com, tel/fax +27-21-786-1414, cell +27-83-272-2455.**

Garden Route to Addo Elephant Park

Explore seven different habitats in the Southern Cape, with a target bird list of around 300, plus over 30 mammal species! With staging migrants abundant, seeking out the residents should provide for excellent birding. A pelagic trip should assure albatross, shearwaters, gannets, petrels, and marine mammals. **17-31 March 2007. Contact: Avian Leisure Birding & Wildlife Safaris, www.avianleisure.com, enquiries@avianleisure.com, tel/fax +27-21-786-1414, cell +27-83-272-2455.**

ASIA

Turkey

Our friends at Siemer & Hand Travel are putting together a wonderful trip for us during the height of migration. This custom-designed itinerary led by Soner Bekir, local birding leader, takes in western Turkey, starting in Ankara (Soguksu National Park) to Kulu and the Sultansazligi Nature Reserve (rookery): a dawn look for Caspian Snowcock, then coastal birding along the Goksu Delta, and the riparian Euphrates River. Desert habitat of Biraçik allows a new variety of birds, with 275 trip birds likely. Pre-trip (May 8-13) includes Dilek National Park, the Gediz Delta (12,000 pairs of flamingo breed here) Kocay Delta, and Lake Ulubat. **12-26 May 2007. Contact: Siemer & Hand Travel, www.siemerhand.com, travel@siemerhand.com, (800) 451-4321.**

PACIFIC OCEAN

Nature Cruising Through the Philippine Islands

Enjoy the comforts of the *Clipper Odyssey* while exploring the magic of the Philippines with birding specialist Brent Stephenson, the discoverer of the supposedly extinct New Zealand Storm-Petrel, and a world birding guide. Shore excursions and sightseeing included in 18 days of travel. **3-20 April 2007. Optional post trip to Hong Kong. Contact: Clipper Cruise Line, www.clippercruise.com, groupres@intrav.com, (800) 456-0200.**

Wild Hawaii

Join Rob Pacheco on a new itinerary for the islands. We will visit the vast variety of habitats and elevations to see the greatest number of bird species, both endemic and introduced. This trip sells out every year, so make plans early to join us! **13-23 March 2007. Contact: Siemer & Hand Travel, www.siemerhand.com, travel@siemerhand.com, (800) 451-4321.**

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