

Pictorial Highlights



1 • Nova Scotia's second documented Bell's Vireo, evidently a bird of the nominate (eastern) subspecies, was present in Lower Sackville through late November 2005 but only confirmed and photographed on 3 December (here). It was last seen the following day. *Photograph by Cindy Creighton.*

2 • Nova Scotia's eighteenth Painted Bunting (but just the third in winter) was sustained through the season (here 10 February 2006) at a feeder in Bridgewater. *Photograph by Hans Toom.*

3 • Two Cape May Warblers lingered into December 2005 in Nova Scotia, and this adult male at Kentville, photographed 20 December, remained to grace the local Christmas Bird Count. *Photograph by Richard Stern.*

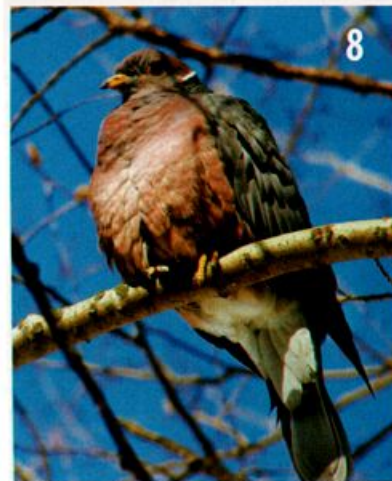
4 • This male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Saint Pierre (here 4 January 2006) was an extremely rare find for the French Islands in midwinter. *Photograph by Patrick Boez.*

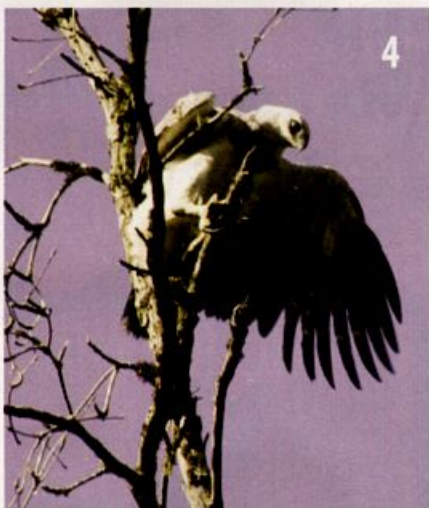
5 • Western Reef-Heron is known in North America only from one record, a long-staying bird on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts in 1983—until this individual (of the nominate subspecies, *gularis*) turned up at Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland on 14 June 2005; it remained in the area, to be seen by hundreds of observers, through at least 6 September. *Photograph by Paul Linegar.*

6 • Newfoundland's first Ross's Goose appeared in St. John's during an unexpected mid-December 2005 influx of Snow Geese. The bird was photographed here on 16 December, within the first hours of its four-month stay! *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

7 • Royal Tern is rare virtually anywhere inland in North America, and this individual at Wilcox Playa, Arizona on 15 February 2006 was all the more astonishing in winter. *Photograph by Matt Victoria.*

8 • Wisconsin's second Band-tailed Pigeon spent the winter at a feeder in St. Croix (here on unknown date in February 2006). *Photograph by John Agger.*





1 • This adult Streak-backed Oriole was found by Gary Rosenberg on private property along Sonoita Creek during the Patagonia Christmas Bird Count 18 December 2005 (here) and seen nearby through 22 December. It represents only the second documented record for Santa Cruz County, with the first being photographed near Tumacacori earlier in 2005. *Digiscoped photograph by Dave Stejskal.*

2 • The juvenal-plumaged Gray-headed Kite first seen on Caye Caulker, Belize on 17 February 2005 (*N.A.B.* 59: 508) was still present a year later, by which time (here 31 January 2006) it had molted into definitive plumage. *Photograph by Bert Frenz.*

3 • Baja California's first well-documented Blue-headed Vireo was this first-winter male photographed 8 March 2006 on the Rio Colorado near Ejido Chiapas No. 3. The two prior records from the Peninsula were of early October migrants in Baja California Sur. *Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.*

4 • Harpy Eagle is a very rare bird at the edge of its range in northern Central America. This immature bird was found 15 December 2005 at Quebrada de Oro in the Bladen Nature Reserve, Belize. *Photograph by Steven Brewer.*

5 • This Pacific Screech-Owl at Isla Zacate Grande, in the Gulf of Fonseca, was found with a mate 11 February 2006; this furnishes the first documented record for Honduras, although the species is well known here by local residents. *Photograph by Tom Jenner.*

6 • A male Green-winged Teal at Lake Guija, Santa Ana Department, El Salvador was the first documented in the country since the species was reported by an aerial survey in 1947 (here 13 January 2006). *Photograph by Luis Pineda.*

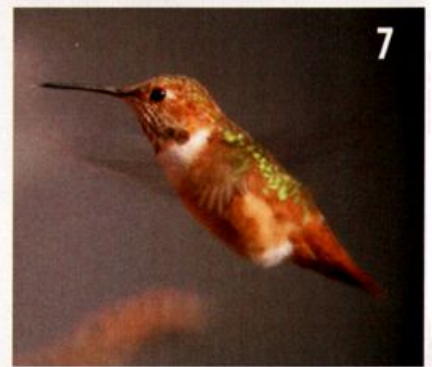
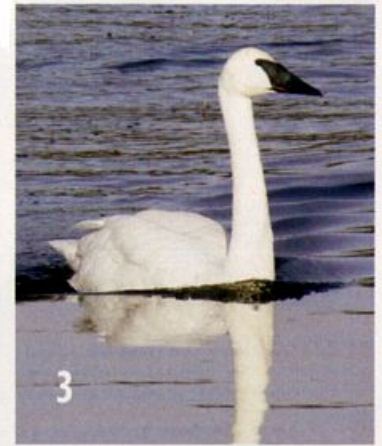
7 • Outstanding photographs such as this one helped to confirm the identification of this Northern Waterthrush, which wintered (here 24 January 2006) along the Cache la Poudre River in Fort Collins, Larimer, Colorado. *Photograph by David Leatherman.*

8 • Colorado's fourth record of Long-billed Thrasher followed the state's third by only about a month, when this bird was reported 20 (here 23) February 2006 in a Denver neighborhood; it remained well into the spring season. *Photograph by Glenn Walbek.*

9 • Furnishing just the second state record of the subspecies, this Prairie Merlin (subspecies *richardsoni*) at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Wyandot County, Ohio was photographed 4 January 2006. *Photograph by Blake Mathys.*



PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



1 • Winter 2005–2006 had three reports of Black-headed Grosbeak in Florida’s panhandle. This immature male visited a feeder in East-point, Franklin County from 10 January (here 12 February) into the spring season. *Photograph by John Spohrer.*

2 • This *Empidonax* flycatcher, either a Pacific-slope or a Cordilleran, was photographed 18 January 2006 along the Virgin River near the Washington Fields Diversion, Washington County, Utah—one of two “Western” Flycatchers found wintering in southwestern Utah this season. Along with a Dusky Flycatcher record from this winter, these furnish the first documented records of *Empidonax* wintering in Utah. *Photograph by Rick Fridell.*

3 • Trumpeter Swans, probably from recent re-introduction programs in the Great Lakes, have been appearing for over a decade in northern New York. This one strayed farther south. First identified at Davey’s Lake, Cape May Point, New Jersey as a Tundra Swan on 17 December 2005, it remained there until 6 (here 5) January 2006 and was probably the same individual that visited the Hoopes Reservoir in northern Delaware on 25 January. *Photograph by Karl Lukens.*

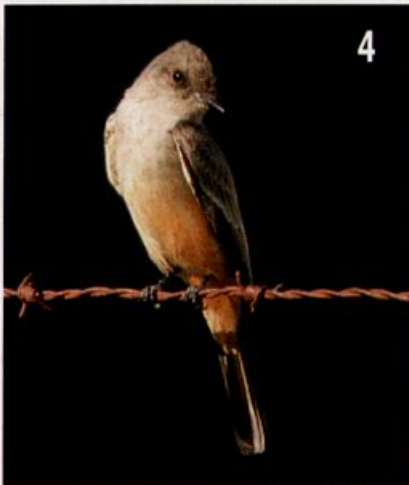
4 • This Lark Sparrow appeared at Chambersburg, Franklin County 10 (here 21) January 2006 and remained through the winter season. *Photograph by Geoff Malosh.*

5 • This Black Guillemot at Barnegat Inlet, New Jersey remained from 3 (here 17) December 2005 through 12 January 2006. New Jersey has only 11 previous records of the species, only one of which was for more than one day (in winter 1962–1963). *Photograph by Kevin Karlson.*

6 • Two Sandhill Crane x Common Crane hybrids were present at New Egypt, New Jersey from 6 February 2006 through season’s end, probably part of the legacy of a Common Crane that escaped from an upstate New York farm in 1991 and produced offspring with a Sandhill Crane in southern New Jersey in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Observers throughout the East should study each crane carefully for signs of hybrid derivation. *Photograph by Alex Tongas.*

7 • One of four *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, most probably Rufous but possibly Allen’s, in the Hudson–Delaware Region this season, this one at Verga, New Jersey remained from the fall season through 17 (here 12) December 2005. *Photograph by Karl Lukens.*

8 • This Northern Saw-whet Owl was found at Ledges State Park in Boone County, Iowa on 11 February 2006; although probably an uncommon (if irregular) wintering species in the state, it is difficult to locate in most winters. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore*



1 • One of two Say's Phoebes in Illinois in winter 2005–2006, this bird was photographed 20 December 2005 at Crane Lake in Mason County. It had been found there 17 December by H. David Bohlen on a Christmas Bird Count. Prior to this season, there were 11 records for the species in Illinois. *Photograph by Peter S. Weber.*

2 • This Pine Warbler at Spring Valley Nature Center in Schaumburg, Illinois 25 January 2006 (here) was the northernmost of three reported in Illinois in winter 2005–2006. It foraged between patches of melting snow at the end of what was otherwise a relatively snow-free and record-warm January in northeastern Illinois. *Photograph by Alan Stankevitz.*

3 • This Varied Thrush remained at Lothian, Anne Arundel County, Maryland 18 (here 21) February through 26 March 2006, representing just a fourth confirmed state record. *Photograph by George M. Jett.*

4 • Only a handful of observers saw this Say's Phoebe (North Carolina's fourth), which was located on a large private farm in Carteret County 1–6 (here 2) December 2005. *Photograph by Will Cook.*

5 • This female Eared Quetzal was one of a pair found near El Batel, in Sinaloa, Mexico 27 February 2006; although the species is frequently seen along the Durango Highway in the state of Durango, it is very scarce in this part of Sinaloa. *Photograph by Edward S. Brinkley.*

6 • This female Varied Thrush remained in a Louisville yard 4 February 2006 (here) through the end of the season and represented at least a fifth record for Kentucky. *Photograph by David Pallares.*

7 • Following autumn reports of multiple individuals from four New Mexico counties, at least two naturally occurring Aplomado Falcons were documented in the state during the winter, including this one in Luna County 28 December 2005. *Photograph by Jonathan P. Batkin.*

8 • This immature Solitary Eagle in El Cielo Biosphere Reserve, Tamaulipas was a spectacular find 21 February 2006 (here) during the El Cielo Bird Festival and was superbly documented. This photograph confirms this as the first record of the species for Tamaulipas and one of few for northeastern Mexico. Aside from details of plumage, it resembles a black-hawk, but several distinctive structural features are apparent: enormous feet, eagle-like proportions of the head, and wingtips that reach just about to the tail tip. *Photograph by Rick Cech.*

9 • This adult Black Hawk-Eagle at La Bajada, Nayarit 15 February 2006 was far north of its previously known range; this species is thought to be sedentary. *Photograph by Kevin Kalhoon.*



1 • Normally a very secretive species, a Black Rail spent over five hours perched atop a canoe that was moored under the interpretive center at the Palo Alto Baylands, Santa Clara County on 31 December 2005. *Photograph by Ashok Khosla.*

2 • This cooperative Short-tailed Albatross was found on a pelagic trip to the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary 4 December 2005. Increasing records of this rare species off the West Coast of North America attest to successful conservation efforts on the breeding islands off Japan. *Photograph by Roger Harshaw.*

3 • On 18 December 2005, this very late Le Conte's Sparrow was photographed at Wolfe Island, Ontario. *Photograph by Mike Runtz.*

4 • A series of winter storms drove large numbers of Red Phalaropes onto the Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia coastlines during December 2005 and January 2006, with some small flocks travelling into the interior of western Washington and Oregon. One bird, however, outdid the rest, landing near Umapine, Umatilla County, Oregon (here 23 December 2005), providing the first winter record for either eastern Oregon or Washington. *Photograph by Cliff Freese.*

5 • The burgeoning numbers of breeding Lesser Goldfinches at the northern limit of their range have apparently spawned a number of vagrants recently, including this male some 400+ km north of its normal range in Bellingham, Washington, first detected on 26 February (here 1 March) 2006. *Photograph by Marv Breece.*

6 • Pacific Golden-Plover was once extremely rare in Oregon and Washington during winter, with only about six records prior to 1990. Over the past decade, however, this species has become an annual winter visitor. This individual visited Halsey, Oregon on 26 December 2005. *Photograph by Mark Nikas.*

7 • Oregon's eleventh Black-throated Green Warbler, and second during winter, adorned Klamath Falls from 9 (here) through 22 December 2005. *Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.*

8 • Prior to the past few years, Sooty Fox Sparrows (*unalaschensis* subspecies group) were virtually unrecorded in eastern Oregon, despite being of regular occurrence in eastern Washington. This bird is typical of that subspecies group, with dusky flanks, a dull facial pattern, no wingbars, and an unstreaked brown back. It was photographed at Umatilla, Oregon on 10 December 2005. *Photograph by David Herr.*





1 • This long-lingering Carolina Wren was banded soon after its August 2005 arrival at Delta, Manitoba, where it remained until 1 February 2006. Although it proved very elusive, it was eventually seen by several observers and photographed on 8 January 2006, thus providing the province's second winter record. *Photograph by Christian Artuso.*

2 • Georgia had three Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in winter 2005–2006; this immature male was one of two in the Atlanta area (here 3 December 2005). Prior to this season, the state had just three documented records of the species. *Photograph by Bob Zaremba.*

3 • This Scarlet Tanager was present in a Conway, South Carolina yard 2–20 (here 5) December 2005; the species is very rare in winter in the Southern Atlantic region. *Photograph by Gary Phillips.*

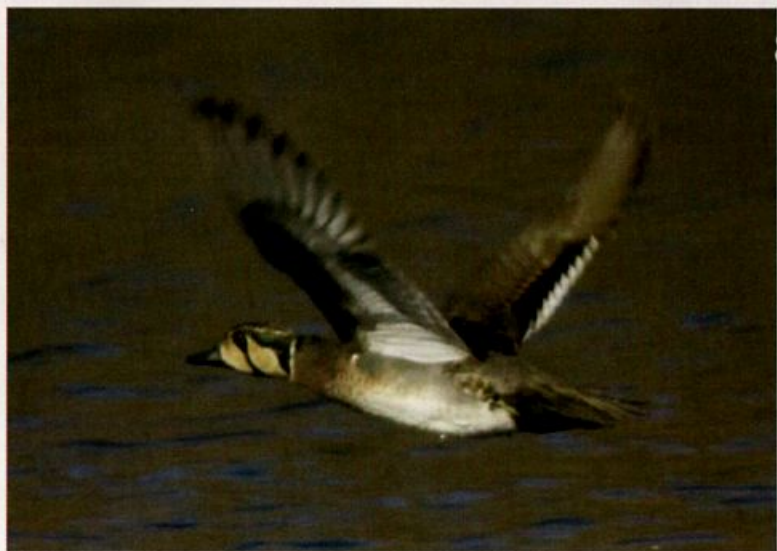
4 • Bullock's Oriole staged a minor invasion into the Southeast this winter. This, the first of two in Georgia, attended a feeder near Smyrna, Cobb County 15–21 (here 20) December 2005 and provided the sixth state record. *Photograph by Bob Zaremba.*

5 • Not to be outdone by neighboring states, North Carolina had two Bullock's Orioles in winter 2005–2006. This one was present in a yard north of Pittsboro, Chatham County from late January until the spring season (here 4 March 2006). *Photograph by Will Cook.*

6 • This Henslow's Sparrow was apparently one of several to winter in the southeastern corner of Oklahoma at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, McCurtain County (here 30 December 2005). *Photograph by Dave Arbour.*

7 • This obliging adult male Broad-billed Hummingbird spent 5 (here 10) December 2005 through 8 February 2006 at at Borrego Springs; it one of three present in southern California this winter. *Photograph by Matt Sadowski.*

8 • This photograph of the Baikal Teal present in Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, California 10 (here 16) December 2005 through 9 January 2006 not only shows the diagnostic head pattern but also the differences in the wing patterns useful in distinguishing the species from the similar-sized Green-winged Teal. *Photograph by Larry Sansone.*





1 • This Plumbeous Vireo photographed in Goleta, Santa Barbara County on 22 December 2005 was one of over 40 reported in southern California in winter 2005–2006. *Photograph by Jim Greaves.*

2 • Most observers found this Rufous-backed Robin at the Wister Unit Headquarters near Niland, Imperial County, California 21 December 2005 through 20 (here 5) January 2006 shy and difficult to observe. However, as is evident in this shot, it did pose for some photographers. This image not only shows the rufous on the back but also the lack of white crescents above and below the eyes and the extensive black streaking on the throat that differentiate it from American Robin. *Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.*

3 • This blue-morph Ross's Goose was one of at least two such birds present through the winter at the south end of the Salton Sea, California (here 9 January 2006). *Photograph by Bob Miller.*

4 • A bird of the season in Texas has to be this female Snow Bunting at South Padre Island 24 December 2005 (here) through 2 January 2006. This bird was the sixth of its species to be documented in Texas and the farthest south—in a year when vagrants from the north were very scarce. *Photograph by Reid Allen.*

5 • This Rufous-backed Robin was present near Utley, Bastrop County, Texas between 7 January 2006 and the spring season (here 12 January), providing an unexpected first record for central Texas. *Photograph by Shawn Ashbaugh.*

6 • This stunning male Bullock's Oriole visited the feeders of Chris and Jean Hensick of Brighton, Livingston County, Michigan from 15 (here 19) February through 1 March 2006; if accepted, it will represent Michigan's fourth record of the species. *Photograph by Caleb Putnam.*

7 • Among three Rufous-backed Robins found in Arizona in winter 2005–2006, this bird at Boyce Thompson Arboretum was found 8 January (here) and last seen 27 March. *Photograph by Oliver Niehuis.*

8 • This American Black Duck was seen between 16 January (here; on the Wetlands International Survey) and 13 February 2006 on Desirade Island; it was a first for Guadeloupe and probably for Lesser Antilles. *Photograph by Anthony Levesque.*

