

## **Western Birds abstracts Vol. 38. No. 3.**

### **THE 31<sup>ST</sup> REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2005 RECORDS**

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**ABSTRACT:** The California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 242 records involving 91 species and one species pair evaluated during 2005, endorsing 182. New to California were Parkinson's Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*), Ringed Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma hornbyi*), Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), and Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*). Adjusted for these additions, California's bird list stands at 632 species, ten of which are nonnative. A Falcated Duck from 1969 (*Anas falcata*) and a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) accepted from May 2000 predate previous records and thus become the state's earliest of those species.

### **COLONIZATION OF THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD ALONG RIO GRANDE IN NEW MEXICO**

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**ABSTRACT:** During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) expanded its range westward, mainly as a result of anthropogenic alteration of habitats. Along the Rio Grande in New Mexico the species' numbers in winter have recently increased spectacularly, and from 1999 through 2004 four records of breeding were published. Here we report 30 further nestings in just 2005 and 2006. In all 30 cases, the birds nested in the cottonwood riparian forest along the river following fire, postfire habitat rehabilitation, or fuel reduction work, all leading to partial or complete removal of the understory vegetation. The Eastern Bluebirds' observed nesting season lasted from late March through the end of July. Most (17) nesting was in nest boxes, with an observed mean productivity of 1.43 fledglings per nest attempt in 2005 ( $n = 7$ ) and 2.1 fledglings per nest attempt in 2006 ( $n = 10$ ).

**NOTES:**

**INCREASING WINTER ABUNDANCE OF THE MARBLED GODWIT IN WASHINGTON**

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**PELLET-CASTING BY A WESTERN SCRUB-JAY**

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**A WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW WITH THREE LEGS**

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**GREAT HORNED OWL DIURNAL RESPONSE TO A PASSERINE DISTRESS VOCALIZATION**

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**A CALIFORNIA SPECIMEN OF THE WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER**

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**A NESTING RECORD OF THE MASKED BOOBY FROM GUERRERO, SOUTHERN MEXICO**

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**PREDATION BY THE SONORAN WHIPSNAKE ON BIRDS IN SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO**

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## **THE SHORT TALE OF A MELANISTIC BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER**

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### **BOOK REVIEWS:**

**Albatrosses, Petrels, and Shearwaters of the World**, by Derek Onley and Paul Scofield. 2007. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 240 pages, 45 color plates, range maps. Paperback, \$29.95. ISBN-13: 978-0-691-13132-0.

**Introduction to Birds of the Southern California Coast**, by Joan Easton Lentz, with photos by Don DesJardin. 2006. University of California Press. 240 pages, 120 color illustrations, 51 line illustrations, 16 maps. Paperback \$19.95 (ISBN 0-520-24321-8). Hardback \$55.00.

### **FEATURED PHOTO:**

## **IDENTIFICATION AT SEA OF HAWAIIAN AND GALAPAGOS PETRELS**

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