



# Rare & Notable Birds – Alberta

James Fox and Michael Sveen



# *North American Birds*

**Who?**

**What?**

**Where?**

**When?**

**Why?**

**How?**



DOUBLE  
ISSUE

SPRING MIGRATION

# North American Birds

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



VOLUME 69: NO. 3, 2016 • MARCH THROUGH MAY 2015

North American Birds is a journal published by the American Bird Association.



American Birding®  
A S S O C I A T I O N

# *North American Birds*

- ‘journal of record’ for birders
- mission is to provide a complete overview of the changing panorama of North America’s birdlife including:
  - outstanding records
  - range extensions and contractions
  - population dynamics
  - change in migration patterns
  - change in seasonal occurrence.

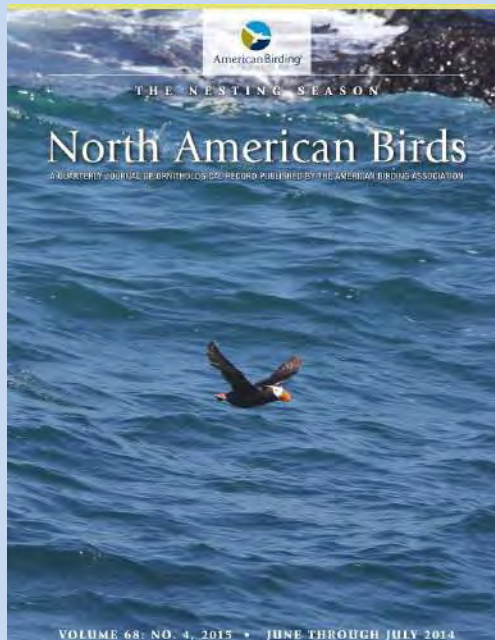




Winter (December to February)

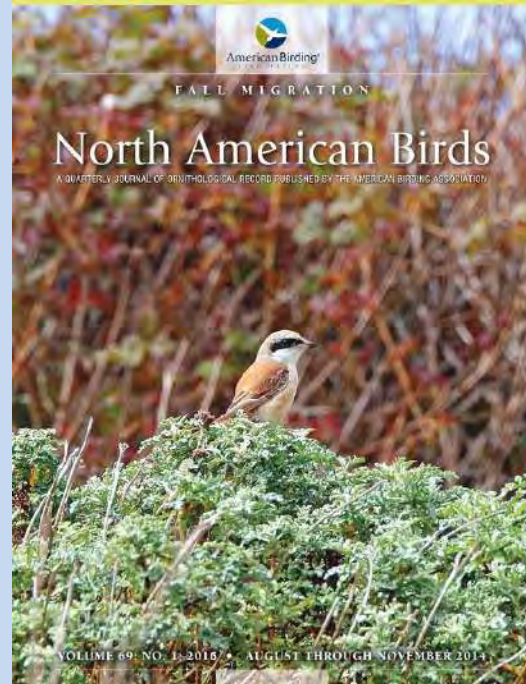
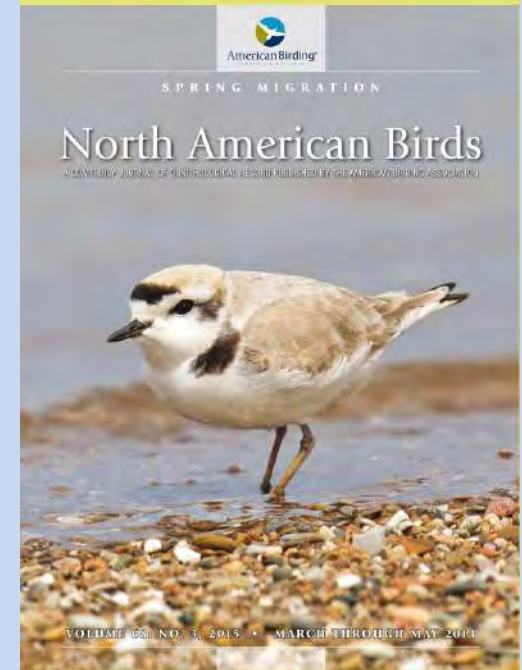
Spring (March to May)

Four issues per year:



Summer (June to July)

Fall (August to November)



# In each issue you will find

- thirty-four (34) regional reports organized taxonomically and produced by some of North America's top birders
- A comprehensive summary of an entire season including:
  - If migration was early or late
  - Nesting season success by species
  - Which irruptive species invaded and where
  - Species range expansion or contraction
  - Species in decline
  - Where rare birds were found
  - Information for planning your next birding trip

# Alberta Record Compilers

- Compilers
  - James Fox
  - Michael Sveen
  - Milton Spitzer
  - Yousif Attia
- Advisors
  - Dr. Jocelyn Hudon
  - Michael Harrison

Alberta is part of the **PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION** with Saskatchewan and Manitoba.





# Compiling Records

- A team of birders, ornithologists and biologists work together to collect and compile rare and notable bird records from all over Alberta. An Alberta report is written using these records.
- The PRAIRIE PROVINCE REGIONAL editors use the provincial reports to write a region wide report that is published in the *North American Birds* Journal.
- To receive a copy of the Alberta Reports, please email Alberta compiler James Fox at [fox.james.ed@gmail.com](mailto:fox.james.ed@gmail.com)

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The judges have reviewed all of the outstanding entries. ABA staff has compiled the scores. After much anticipation, we are thrilled to announce the winners of the 2017 ABA Young Birder of the Year Co...  
[Open Mic: Birding opens up a new appreciation for the Sonoran Desert.](#)  
At the mic: Alfredo Vasquez was born and raised in Tucson and is a senior at City High School. He has interests in wildlife conservation, learning new languages, traveling the world, playing music, etc...  
[Birding Alaska and an Interview with Dr. Nils](#)



**ABA's BIRDING MAGAZINE**  
Vol. 49, No. 2  
April 2017

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- Salton Sea
- Rusty Blackbirds
- Female Songbirds
- Full Digital Issue for Members

**BIRDER'S GUIDE**  


**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Algonquin Provincial Park
- Midway Atoll
- Malheur NWR
- Current Issue »
- Past Issues »

**BIRDER'S GUIDE to Travel**  
March 2017

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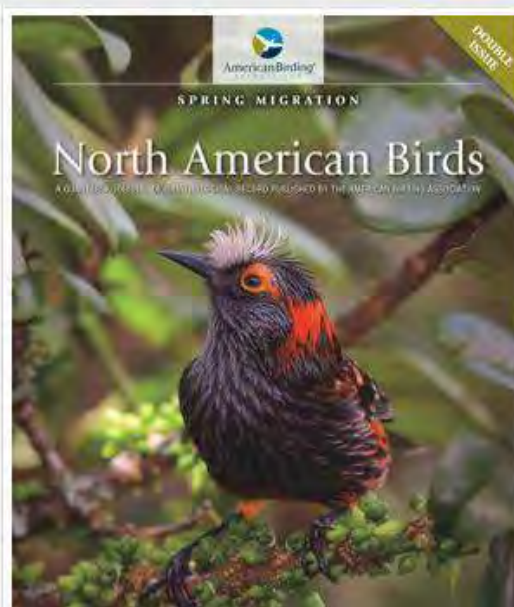
## Publications

### North American Birds

Previously published as part of *Bird Lore*, *Audubon Field Notes*, and later *American Birds*, American Birding Association now produces *North American Birds* (formerly as *Field Notes*), the 'journal of record' for birders. The mission of the journal is to provide a complete overview of the changing panorama of North America's birdlife, including outstanding records, range extensions and contractions, population dynamics, and changes in migration patterns or seasonal occurrence.

**What does *North American Birds* bring you?**

Thirty-four regional reports, organized in taxonomic order and produced by some of North America's top birders, make up the bulk of every issue. You'll find a comprehensive summary of



# What does rare & notable mean?

- A rare species
- Larger numbers of a given species
- A species outside of its expected spatial range
- A species outside of its expected temporal range
- Aberrant plumage
- Hybrids



Rare and notable can mean  
a rare species such as...

# Crested Caracara



July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Jasper National Park – Tucker Wilde

# Costa's Hummingbird



November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Sherwood Park – Vincent Cottrell



Great-tailed Grackle

Photo Gerry Fox



May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Hill Springs – Todd Boland



Rare and notable can mean  
a large number of birds such as...

# Red Knots



400 Red Knots

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – Rolling Hills Slough – James + Gerry Fox





A flock of 100,000 Snow Geese



Rare and notable can mean  
a bird seen out of  
its expected range such as...





Long-billed Curlew

May 26<sup>th</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 – Fort Smith, AB

# Whooping Crane



June 5<sup>th</sup> , 2016 – Grande Prairie – Robert Moffatt

Rare and notable  
can mean a bird seen out of its expected  
date range such as...



# Brown Thrasher



December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Calgary – Bernard Tremblay



Rare and notable  
can mean a regular species  
with aberrant plumage such as...



An all white House Sparrow seen in August 2016 by Manna Parseyan

Rare and notable  
can mean a hybrid such as...



# Mallard x Northern Pintail



Weed Lake – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Michael Harrison

Rare and notable

can mean a lack of certain species such as...

# Lack of Species

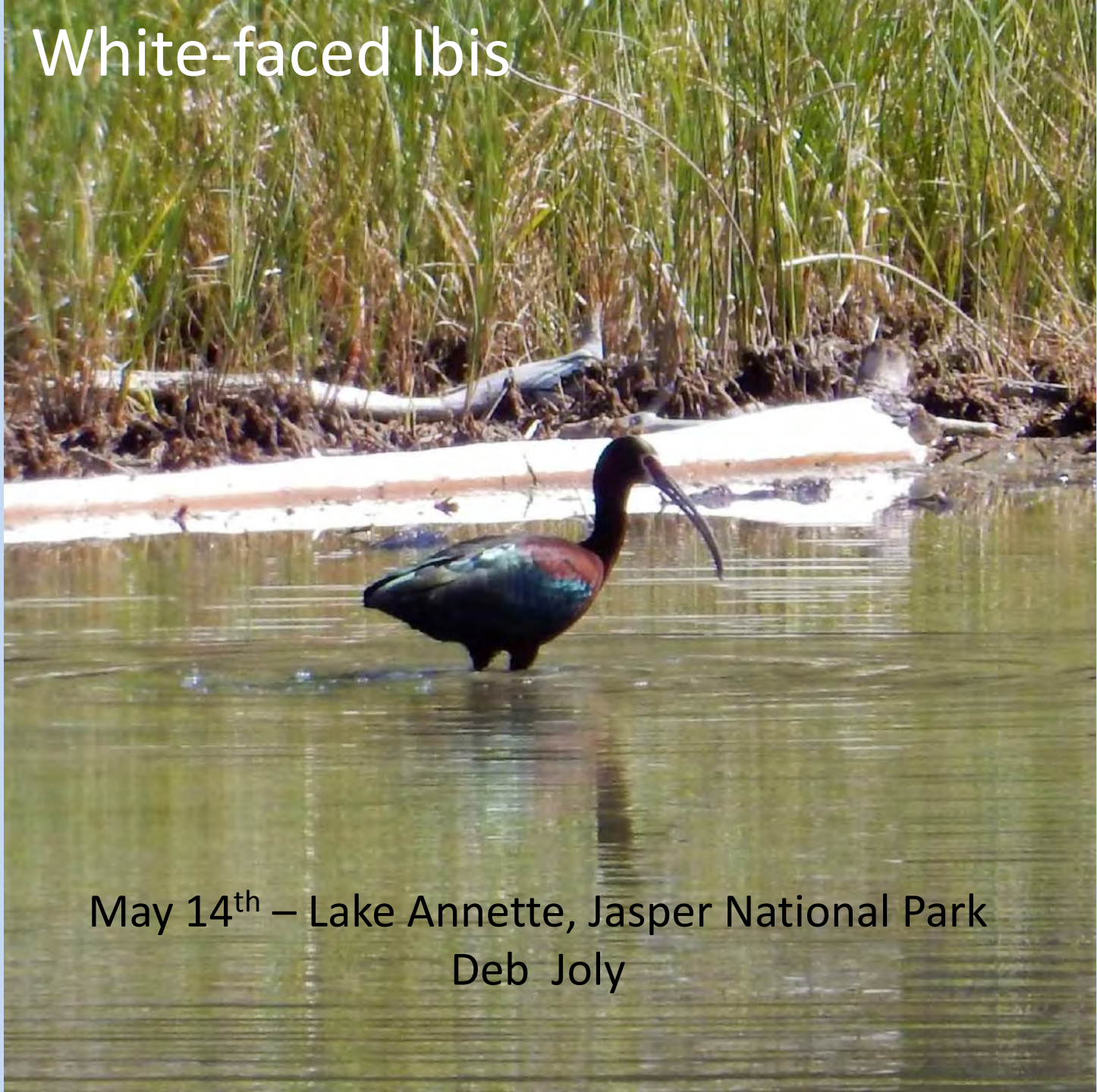
- Tennessee and Black-throated Green Warblers in Northeastern Alberta
- Possible connection to forest fires?



# Monthly Summary:

## May 2016

# White-faced Ibis



May 14<sup>th</sup> – Lake Annette, Jasper National Park  
Deb Joly



# Lesser Goldfinch



May 15<sup>th</sup> – Cochrane – Linda Vaxwick



# White-winged Dove



May 15<sup>th</sup> – Cardston – Bob Pruner



# Northern Mockingbird



May 17<sup>th</sup> – Douglasdale, Calgary – Jerry Kwasnitza

# Lewis's Woodpecker



May 21-28<sup>th</sup> – Waterton National Park Photo by Ted McKen



# Great Egret



**May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Tyrell Lake**

**Shannon Snow**

**Reported May 25<sup>th</sup> by David Scott**



# Arctic Tern



May 26<sup>th</sup> — Langdon Slough, Calgary — Yousif Attia



# Northern Mockingbird



May 26<sup>th</sup> – Kinbrook Provincial Park – Michael Sveen





May 26<sup>th</sup> – Cooking Lake – Andrew Davies

# Whooping Crane



# Northern Mockingbird



May 28-30<sup>th</sup> – Banff National Park – Amar Athwal



# May – No Photos

Northern Mockingbird – May 26<sup>th</sup> – Fort McLeod – Nick Parayko

Lewis's Woodpecker – May 26<sup>th</sup> – 1 km west of Waterton – Nancy West

Scarlet Tanager – May 31<sup>st</sup> – Glenmore Park – Ray Wershler



# Monthly Summary:

## June 2016

# Whooping Crane



June 5<sup>th</sup> – Grande Prairie – Robert Moffatt



# Sage Thrasher



June 11<sup>th</sup> – Wildhorse – Colton Prins + Mackenzie Fai

# June – No Photos

Sage Thrasher – June 11<sup>th</sup> – Wildhorse – Doug Martin

Lazuli Bunting – June 13<sup>th</sup> – Grande Prairie – Rae Weniger

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – June 20<sup>th</sup> – Edmonton – Patricia Sharpe

Wood Thrush – June 21<sup>st</sup> – Calgary – Mike Resch

Western Bluebird – June 27<sup>th</sup> – east of Waterton National Park –  
James + Gerry Fox



# Monthly Summary: July 2016



# Eastern Bluebird



July 4<sup>th</sup> – Cypress Hills PP – James Fox, Gerry Fox, Vince Cottrell

July 6 – 30<sup>th</sup> – Buffalo Lake – Chris Pfeifle  
Photo by Ken Gade

Great Egret





# Northern Mockingbird



July 12<sup>th</sup> – Vulcan County – Ela Thakore



# Sage Thrasher



July 16<sup>th</sup> – Taber – Lloyd Bennett

# Ferruginous Hawk



July 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunshine Meadows Banff NP  
Gailon Brehm



# July – No Photos

Green Heron – July 21<sup>st</sup> – North Edmonton – Witek Gierulski

Black-chinned Hummingbird – July 30<sup>th</sup> – Crowsnest Pass – Pat Lucas

Black-chinned Hummingbird – July 30<sup>th</sup> – Mountain View – Nancy West





# Monthly Summary: August 2016

**August 9<sup>th</sup> – Lake Louise – Michelle Belanger**

**Sage Thrasher**





**August 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Medicine Hat**  
**Yousif Attia**

**Northern Mockingbird**





# August – No Photos

Smith's Longspur – August 27<sup>th</sup> – Seven Person's – Yousif Attia



# Monthly Summary: September 2016

September 5<sup>th</sup> – Calgary – Dave Russum



Lesser Black-backed Gull



# Blue-winged Warbler

**September 6-7<sup>th</sup>, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary –  
John Riddell and Calgary Bird Banding Society**





# Sabine's Gull



September 9<sup>th</sup> – Maligne Lake – James Boccia  
Photo by Jill Seaton



# Black-throated Blue Warbler



September 23-27<sup>th</sup> – Canmore – Ethan & Neil Denton



**PLAY AUDIO**

# Western Screech Owl



**September 26<sup>th</sup> – Calgary – Diane Ramsay**



# Monthly Summary: October 2016

# Iceland Gull (Thayer's)



October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Calgary – George Best



# Iceland Gull



**October 9<sup>th</sup> – Inglewood Golf Club  
George Best & Wlad Franco-Valias**



# Sharp-tailed Sandpiper



October 10-11<sup>th</sup> – Coal Lake – Gerald Romanchuk



# Black Scoter



**October 10<sup>th</sup> – Glenmore Reservoir**  
**John Thompson & Michael Harrison (pc)**



# Western Screech Owl



October 11<sup>th</sup>  
Calgary  
Diane Ramsay



October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Peigan Trail Gull Pond + Dump  
Michael Harrison  
Glaucous-winged Gull



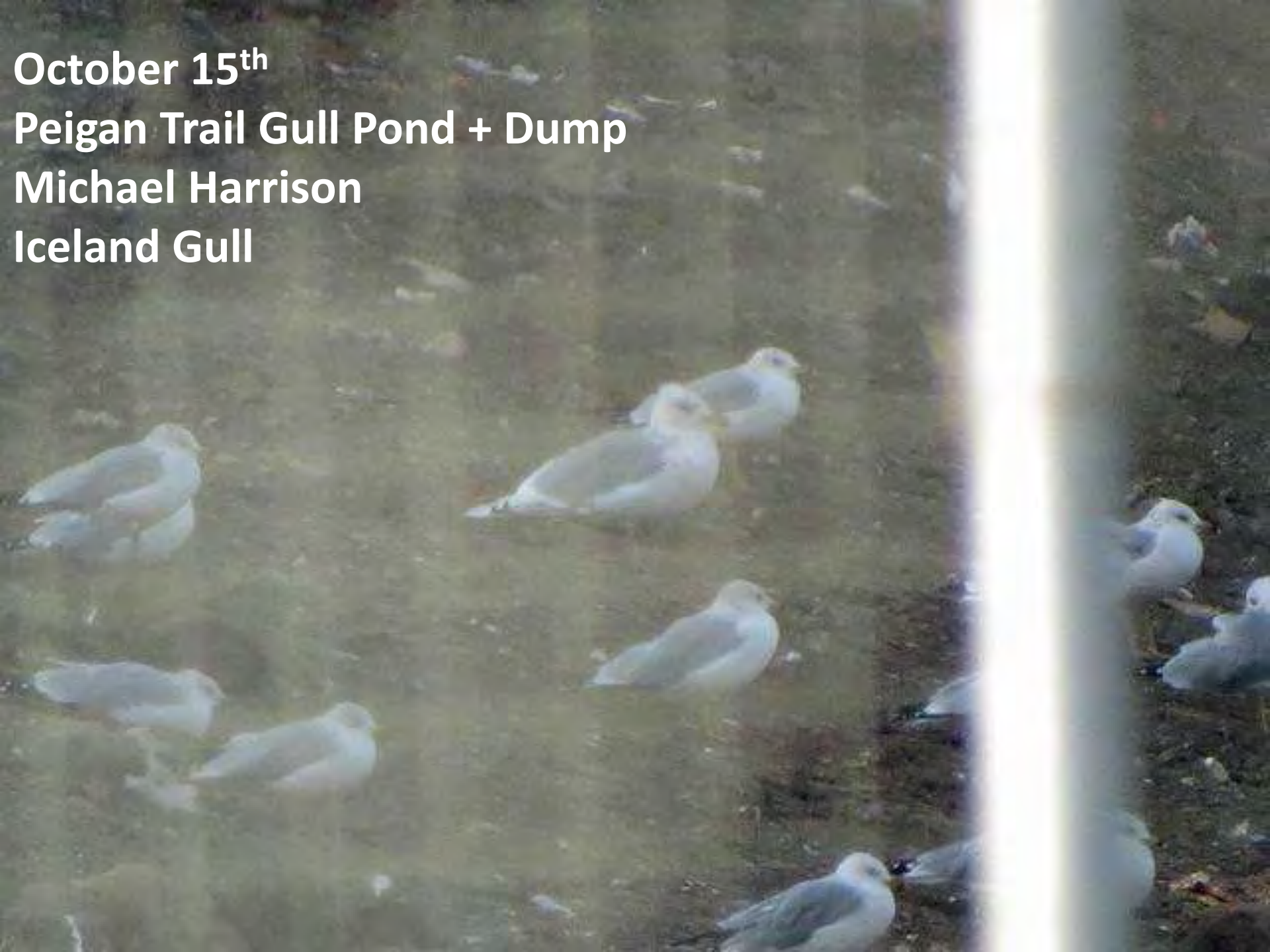


**October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Peigan Trail Gull Pond + Dump**

**Michael Harrison**

**Iceland Gull**





# Flammulated Owl



**October 19<sup>th</sup> – Nose Hill Park Calgary – Karl Hentze**





**October 26<sup>th</sup> – Lethbridge – Ken Orich**  
**Bay-breasted Warbler**





# Anna's Hummingbird



**October 29<sup>th</sup> – November 19<sup>th</sup> – Hinton – Beth McCallum**



# American Black Duck



October 30<sup>th</sup> – Seebe Dam – Ethan & Neil Denton

# October – No Photos

Smith's Longspur – October 1<sup>st</sup> – Medicine Hat – Michael Sveen

Little Gull – October 1<sup>st</sup> – Coal Lake – Edmonton Nature Club

Yellow-billed Loon – October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lake Wabamun – Connor Charchuk & Nick Parayko

Smith's Longspur – October 6<sup>th</sup> – Medicine Hat – Colton Prins

Black Scoter – October 31<sup>st</sup>  
Glenmore Reservoir Calgary  
Richard Clarke





# Monthly Summary: November 2016

# Sabine's Gull



November 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Kitsim Reservoir  
Michael Harrison



**November 1<sup>st</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> – Frank Lake – Greg Wagner**  
**Brant**







November 7<sup>th</sup> – Fox Creek – Kelly and Joan Kerr  
Cattle Egret



Brant



November 20<sup>th</sup> – Seebe Dam - Malcolm + Joan McDonald  
Photo by Michael Sveen

# November – No Photos

Red-throated Loon – Bill Wilson – Glenmore Reservoir, Calgary

American Black Duck – Martin & Patricia Sharp – Seebe Dam, Seebe





# Monthly Summary: December 2016

# Brown Thrasher



**December 1<sup>st</sup> – Canmore – Ethan & Neil Denton**



# Baird's Sandpiper



December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Frank Lake – Mike Mulligan & Phil Cram

# White-winged Dove



December 5<sup>th</sup> – Fort McMurray – Christine Godwin



# Brown Thrasher



December 18<sup>th</sup> – Airdrie – Heinrich Lohmann