


Cover: Sage Thrasher.
Camas County, Idaho; May 2008.
Photo by © Bob Steele.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Birding

VOL. 46 • NO. 2 • MARCH/APRIL 2014

 **Read the article, starting on page 38. Listen to desert thrashers online: aba.org/birding**

 **Additional online content for everyone**


 **Additional online content exclusively for members**

Questions? Visit aba.org/birding

Correspondence

8 Birding Together
JEFFREY A. GORDON


10 Your Letters
• Baiting Owls
• Paper vs. Electrons

 **Discuss the writers' opinions online: aba.org/birding**

14 Milestones
ABA members' personal birding accomplishments

18 A Birding Interview
with SHELLY PLANTE


24 Commentary
Active Field Birders, the Process of Exploring, and the Importance of Status and Distribution
PAUL LEHMAN

 **Reactions to this commentary: aba.org/birding**


28 News and Notes
• The ABA and a Turtle-Dove
• What is a "Green-winged Teal"?
PAUL HESS

Feature Articles


32 Puzzling Flickers: Understanding Introgession
STEPHEN A. SHUNK

 **Read the expanded online article, with more on the history and biogeography of these puzzling flickers: aba.org/birding**

38 Impossible Thrashers? Using Sound Spectrograms to Identify Birds
TOM STEPHENSON

 **"See" the birds' songs in the article. Hear them online: aba.org/birding**

44 Room for Confusion: Which Common Names Appear in the Most Taxonomic Families?
FRANK IZAGUIRRE


 **More lists, charts, and factoids: aba.org/birding**



When and where is your best bet in North America for finding a Black Tern? The answer may surprise you. Read the article, starting on p. 60.

Departments

52 Featured Photos: Analysis
A Hybrid Goose • A Hybrid Hummingbird
TOM JOHNSON


 **Quiz yourself! Before you read the author's answers and analysis, join the online conversation about these mystery birds: aba.org/birding**

60 Tools of the Trade
Impatient Birder's Guide to North America
DIANA DOYLE

64 A Birding Essay
Two Ways of Looking at a Blackbird
CHELSEA BIONDOLILLO

67 Poem • Natural Skirmish
SHERYL DEVORE

68 Book Reviews
edited by RICK WRIGHT

 **Online book reviews! Read the reviews, discuss the reviews, buy the books: aba.org/birding**

- Seabirds in Flight
AMAR AYYASH, *reviewer*
- Central Pennsylvania
DREW WEBER, *reviewer*
- Goshawk Lore
LUKE TILLER, *reviewer*

72 Featured Photo
A Problematic Hummingbird in Delaware
TOM JOHNSON

 **Join the discussion online: aba.org/birding**