

GLENN BARTLEY NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

SPRING 2008 NEWSLETTER

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BIRDS OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

In February I traveled to the Rio Grande Valley of southern Texas to photograph a few of the fantastic species that can be found there. The area is incredibly rich in birdlife. Colorful species like the Green Jay, the Great Kiskadee and the Altamira Oriole (below) make this one of the top birding destinations on the continent. For many of these birds this region represents the northernmost limit of their range. As a result the Rio Grande Valley is the only place in North America they can be found.



Over the course of approximately 10 days of photography I managed to visit some really great locations. Starting in the city of McAllen at the Quinta Mazatlan World Birding Center I worked my way west to Bentsen Rio Grande State Park, Falcon State Park and the infamous Salineno. Everywhere I went I found new birds just waiting to be photographed. I finished my time in the Rio Grande Valley at Estero Llano Grande State Park where I found two of my most sought after species – the Vermillion Flycatcher and the Green Kingfisher (below).



My final stop in Texas was in Houston where I had the great pleasure of shooting with one of my photography idols. Spending a day shooting with one of the top bird photographers in North America was a really great way to end the trip.

SPRING MIGRATION IN ONTARIO

Over the past few weeks I have been traveling around southern Ontario to hotspots such as Long Point and the Carden Alvar in search of breeding songbirds. It's been a great trip and I have had the good fortune of finding several of my target species - including the Scarlet Tanager (below) and the Golden-winged Warbler (top of first page).



For me photographing birds in spring is always exciting. The birds are in perfect plumage, are singing like crazy which makes them easier to locate, and there is the added bonus that you really never know what migrating species might turn up. One morning while enjoying a coffee in my parents' kitchen I looked out the window to find this stunning male Red-headed Woodpecker at one of our backyard bird feeders. Fortunately I was able to set up a more natural perch for him and he was cooperative enough to land on it and "pose" for the image below.



WEB UPDATES

I'm constantly updating my website. To see more photos from my Texas or Ontario trips or to see what else I've been up to over the past few months visit www.glennbartley.com.



BIRD WATCHERS DIGEST ARTICLE

My article entitled "West Coast Warblers" appears in the current issue of Bird Watchers Digest. In this article, I discuss the eight species of warblers that regularly occur on Canada's West Coast. Although there is no question that the east has the west beat in terms of species diversity of this colorful avian group, the west has some interesting species that are both unique and beautiful. Bird Watcher's Digest is available at all major newsstands and the article is also available on my website.

UPCOMING: KAYAK & HUMMINGBIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

My plan for the summer is to finish my thesis and squeeze in a few photo trips along the way. I have high hopes to explore some of the amazing wilderness areas of Vancouver Island such as Carmanah and Strathcona Provincial Park. I'm also hoping to spend some time out in the kayak photographing seabirds and perfecting my multi-flash technique for photographing hummingbirds. I experimented briefly with this technique in May when I photographed this male Rufous Hummingbird (below). I hope to perfect the technique and achieve natural looking images of these fascinating creatures before I travel to Ecuador in 2009.



That's all for this season. Until next time - all the best!
Glenn ☺