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Front cover photo by © David E. Quady of Berkeley, California: Yellow Rail (Coturnicops noveboracensis), Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland, Alameda County, California, 21 January 2008. Before 1940 the Yellow Rail was apparently a regular winter visitor to the San Francisco Bay area. Since then it has been recorded there only about 10 times. Like other rails, it is most accessible to birders and predators during the highest tides of the year, as when this individual was photographed.

Back cover “Featured Photo” by © Mary F. Platter-Rieger of San Diego, California: Hybrid Yellow-crowned Night-Heron × Black-crowned Night-Heron (Nyctanassa violacea × Nycticorax nycticorax), Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado, San Diego County, California, 24 June 2007. Second known occurrence of this hybrid combination in the wild and first observation of an active nest of a hybridizing pair.