

in Linn, KS 7 Jul (MG, ML) was encouraging, as well as providing the first record for that area (*fide* LM). This species was also conspicuous farther se. than usual in Nebraska (*fide* WRS). A pure-looking Baltimore Oriole in n. *Sheridan*, NE 14 Jun (SJ) was somewhat w. of the usual summer range. Ad. Red Crossbills feeding young were noted at three locations in nw. Nebraska 10-14 Jun (CNK, WM, TJW). A Pine Siskin in *Comanche*, OK 11 Jun (KM) was unexpected, as was a black-backed male Lesser Goldfinch in *Cheyenne*, NE 16 Jun (AS), the 10th Nebraska record for the species.

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Texas



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The summer was a season of extremes. For most of the central portion of Texas, the summer was characterized by above-normal temperatures and virtually no precipitation. This resulted in low productivity in the avian communities and also a drop in water levels in reservoirs and other water impoundments. The same pattern held in the High Plains and the Trans-Pecos until widespread monsoonal moisture finally arriving in late July. These rains were virtually the first of the year in some areas. For example, a storm on 27 July in Big Bend National Park dropped nearly a third of the year-to-date

rainfall. El Paso also received heavy rainfall in late July, culminating in astonishing rainfall totals on 1 August, in excess of 25.4 cm in parts of the area. This resulted in an amazing green-up of the landscape and the onset of nesting activities. It also resulted in widespread flooding and extensive property damage. The eastern third of the state and Coastal Prairies seemed to be the wet areas for the state, with a drenching 39.9 cm at Houston or 18 cm above normal. These rains alleviated the drought conditions that had exposed bottoms of bayous not seen in recent memory.

WATERFOWL THROUGH ANHINGA

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their northward expansion into cen. and e. Texas, as evidenced by records from *Mason*, *Bell*, *Williamson*, *Hunt*, *Rains*, and *Camp*. Fulvous Whistling-Ducks are tough to find well inland, so 2 in *Gonzales* 3 Jun (BFR) and up to 5 at Mitchell L., *Bexar* through Jun (AG et al.) were notable. A pair of Greater White-fronted Geese at Dallas, *Dallas* 29 Jul (BGi, RR, BoS) and 5 Snow Geese at Cactus Playa, *Moore* 17 Jun (BPi) apparently never migrated. Lingering American Wigeons were evident along the cen. coast, with groups of 3 at Pollywog Pond, *Corpus Christi*, *Nueces* 3 Jun, at Flour Bluff, *Nueces* 11 Jun (MC), and near Alamo Beach, *Calhoun* 11 Jun (PHo). A Gadwall, several Northern Shovelers, and a Redhead at L. Iowa Park, *Wichita* 18 Jul provided the first-ever Jul records for that area (T&JK). Also unexpect-

ed in summer was a drake Green-winged Teal at Santa Ana, *Hidalgo* 17 Jun (MG). Six pairs of Redheads found in a rice field near Alamo Beach, *Calhoun* 11 Jun were presumed to be lingering nonbreeders (PHo). Greater Scaup are extremely rare anywhere in Texas in summer, so singles at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 5 Jun (MG) and Magnolia Beach, *Calhoun* 27 Jun (PHo, BFR) were of interest. Lesser Scaup regularly summer along the coast in small numbers, but 16, all paired, in a rice field near Alamo Beach, *Calhoun* 11 Jun (PHo) were surprising. A beached Surf Scoter along the Bolivar Pen., *Galveston* 23 Jun (ph. JKe) was the first-ever summer record for the Upper Texas Coast. Two ad. and 5 young Hooded Mergansers at L. Charlotte, *Chambers* 15 Jun (JKe) represent the first documented nesting for the Upper Texas Coast. One at Greenbelt L., *Donley* 10 Jun (BPi, m.ob.) furnished the 5th summer record for the Panhandle, while a flightless female at Belton L., *Bell* through 1 Jul (RKO, GE) was also notable.

A Pacific Loon photographed at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 19 Jun (R&CG) was a seasonal first for the Region. Very large numbers of summering *Aechmophorus* grebes were noted at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, with a high count of 260 on 9 Jun and two pairs of Clark's Grebes on nests 23 Jul (JPa). An imm. Masked Booby was seen along the surf at South Padre I., *Cameron* 15 Jun and 6 Jul (BMc). Rare but not unprecedented were beached Northern Gannets recovered from Galveston's Stewart

Beach 2 & 10 Jul (BH). A Neotropic Cormorant at Terlingua, *Brewster* 24 Jun (KBe, MF) was believed to be a summer first for the Big Bend area. A count of 65 Double-crested Cormorants at 11 active nests at Palo Duro L., *Hansford* 1 Jul (BPi, m.ob.) constituted an extraordinary breeding effort for the Panhandle. An out-of-range male Anhinga was seen at Fort Inge, *Uvalde* 8 Jul (MH).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

An American Bittern at Greenbelt L., *Donley* 10 Jun (BPi, m.ob.) and 2 at L. Tanglewood, *Randall* 3 Jul (TLJ) represented very rare summer reports from the Panhandle. A juv. Least Bittern 8 Jul and an ad. 16 Jul at McNary Res. were the first for *Hudspeth* and strongly suggested local breeding (JPa). One was also found at Balmorhea S.P., *Reeves* 30 Jul (SCo, MR). A nestling Great White Heron was photographed with typical Great Blue Herons in Aransas Bay, *Aransas* 3 Jun (ToM). Extralimital Tricolored Herons reported included one from Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 8 Jul (SCo, MR) and 5 at Dallas, *Dallas* 29 Jul (BGi, RR, BoS). Wayward Yellow-crowned Night-Herons included one in *Randall* 22 Jul (JaH, BiM) and an ad. at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 16 Jul (ph. JPa). Thirty-five Roseate Spoonbills, with several ads. present among the many juvs., at Dallas, *Dallas* 29 Jul made an unprecedented number locally (BGi, RR, BoS). The banded Greater Flamingo present since the fall was relocated 25 Jul+ near Bayside, *Refugio* (†R&RH, m.ob.). This bird was banded at the Ria Lagartos Reserve in Yucatan, Mexico in Aug 2005.

An Osprey at Greenbelt L., *Donley* 22 Jul (BPi) made just the 3rd summer record for the Panhandle. Repeated summer sightings of multiple Swallow-tailed Kites in Tomball (AW, JSc) and in Baytown, both *Harris* (J>), suggest that this species may be pioneering new breeding areas. A White-tailed Kite near Ceta Canyon, *Randall* 7 Jun (RM, NM) and 2 near L. Meredith, *Moore* 22 Jun (DB, SBr) represented just the 2nd and 3rd records for the Panhandle, respectively. Mississippi Kites continue to expand their breeding range in cen. Texas, with reports of new nesting sites at Bryan (P&MVD) and College Station (JHu) in Brazos, Round Rock, *Williamson* (TFe), Woodway, *McLennan* (FG), and *Bastrop* (m.ob.). Summering birds in Bowie, *Paris* (AN), Pinhood, *Lamar* (MW), and Addielou, *Red River* (MW) suggest the species is also expanding in East Texas. A Sharp-shinned Hawk at L. Meredith, *Moore* 17 Jun (BPi) represented a very rare summer record for the Panhandle. After only a handful of summer records in the past few decades,

there were no fewer than eight Cooper's Hawk sightings from the Greater Houston area this season. Breeding was confirmed by 2 young seen with ads. from 7 Jul+ along Houston's Buffalo Bayou, *Harris*, where birds had been heard cackling earlier in the year (JKe). For the 2nd consecutive year, a Cooper's Hawk was near Afton, *Dickens* 10 Jun (BB). This species has not been confirmed as nesting on the South Plains. An imm. Gray Hawk in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 12 Jun (ML, RPi) was at a higher elevation than the species' regular Davis Mts. haunts along Limpia Cr. near Ft. Davis. A second-year White-tailed Hawk near Valentine, *Jeff Davis* 2 Jul (ph. ML) represented the first docu-



White-tailed Hawk has been reported in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas on previous occasions, but this second-year bird near Valentine, Jeff Davis County 2 July 2006 is the first to be fully documented. Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.

mented record for the Trans-Pecos. This site is about equidistant from possible source populations in s. Texas and s. Chihuahua. A single Ferruginous Hawk in *Ochiltree* 10 Jun (BPi) and 3 in *Ochiltree* 1 Jul (BPi, ph. LS) were far e. of their usual breeding range in the Panhandle. Summering or early migrant Peregrine Falcons were noted in e. *Bexar* 17 Jun (RLo), Tawakoni Rains 10 Jul (RKi), and McNary Res. 29 Jul (JPa). An ad. atop Mt. Livermore in the Davis Mts. 11 Jun (ML, JPa, RPi) was at a location where not seen in recent years.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

A Virginia Rail flushed by an airboat at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 21 Jun (JW) represented the first Jun record for the Upper Texas Coast. Out-of-season Soras were reported from a golf course in San Antonio, *Bexar* 7 Jun (BPl) and from San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 21 Jun (JW), the first ever Jun record for the Upper Texas Coast. Lower water levels at Steinhagen L., *Tyler/Jasper* were apparently responsible for the first records of Common Moorhen in the cen. Pineywoods in 20 years (DW). First county breeding records of

Snowy Plover were established with 11 ads. and 4 chicks at Greenbelt L., *Donley* 10 Jun–22 Jul, 11 ads. with 7 chicks by 25 Jul at L. Meredith, *Moore* 17 Jun, and 3 ads. with 2 chicks at Cactus Playa, *Moore* 17 Jun (BPi et al.). Banded Piping Plovers were photographed at East Beach, *Galveston* 7 Jul and Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 9 Jul (TE). The East Beach bird had nested on the Missouri R. near Vermillion, SD in 2005, and the Bolivar bird was a female banded 10 Jun 2006 at Big Quill L., SD, which apparently did not nest successfully this season. Migrant Piping Plovers are rarely detected in Texas, so one at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 4 Jul (TR, CR) was notable. A count of 87 Lesser Yellowlegs and 10 Greater Yellowlegs at Freeport, *Brazoria* 25 Jun (RWe) was early for such a concentration. A Spotted Sandpiper at the Bolivar Pen. ferry landing, *Galveston* 17 Jun (JG et al.) was the first ever Upper Texas Coast record for mid-Jun. Out-of-season Long-billed Curlews were found near Cedar Hill, *Floyd* 3 Jun (AHe) and at Big Bend's Hot Springs, *Brewster* 12 Jun (BSu). The largest concentration found was 200 at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 30 Jul (SCo, MR). Six to 7 Hudsonian Godwits near Alamo Beach, *Calhoun* 11 Jun–9 Jul (BFr, GH, PHo) and 2 at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* 18 Jun (CTL) were totally unexpected, as the species is only very rarely encountered after the first few days of Jun. A Sanderling at Cactus Playa, *Moore* 25 Jul (BPi) represented a very rare fall record for the Panhandle. A count of 80 alternate-plumaged Semipalmated Sandpipers 17 Jun at Galveston's Pelican I. was unprecedented for mid-Jun, when spring migrants have normally departed and fall birds have not yet arrived (CTL). Tardy White-rumped Sandpipers included 2 at Freeport's Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* 29 Jun (RWe) and another at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 6 Jul (JKe). Tardy Pectoral Sandpipers records included counts of 20 and 49 at Greenbelt L., *Donley* 10 & 11 Jun—the first Jun records ever for the Panhandle (BPi, m.ob.). One at Freeport, *Brazoria* 25 Jun (RWe) provided just the 2nd Jun record for the Upper Texas Coast. A basic-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper photographed at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 3 Jun (†CTL, CA) made the 2nd Jun record for Texas. An alternate-plumaged Stilt Sandpiper at Freeport, *Brazoria* 25 Jun (RWe) was likely an early fall migrant. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper with an injured leg at Freeport, *Brazoria* 25 Jun (RWe) provided just the 2nd Jun record for the Upper Texas Coast.

Rare to accidental in summer in the Trans-Pecos, a few Franklin's Gulls popped up here and there, including 3 at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 9 Jun (JPa), another near Tornillo Res., El

Paso 1 Jul (JPa), and 2 at Presidio, Presidio 21 Jul (ML). One near Amarillo, Potter 17 Jun (JL) was considered very rare for the Panhandle, while another at Muleshoe N.W.R., Bailey 15 Jul (BB) was only the 2nd Jul record for the South Plains. A single Franklin's Gull appeared at Hornsby Bend 17 Jun (RKA), while 17 at Granger L., Williamson the next day was a record local summer count (TFe). Rare in summer, 3 Caspian Terns were at L. Tawakoni, Rains 11 & 27 Jun (RKi, MW). Two Common Terns over Lubbock, Lubbock 18 Jun (AHe, RLe) provided a 4th Jun record for the South Plains. Gustafson located an Arctic Tern at Balmorhea L., Reeves 1 Jun. This alternate-plumaged ad. was seen and photographed by many observers through 11 Jun. Another was photographed at Ft. Hancock Res. and McNary Res., Hudspeth 9 Jun (†JPa) for a 2nd county record. The Balmorhea bird was a Reeves first, and these birds were just the 3rd and 4th for the area, and 6th and 7th for the state, respectively. Three Least Terns were reported from McNary Res. 9 Jun (JPa). Up to 9 Least Terns and two nests at Greenbelt L., Donley 10-11 Jun (BPi, m.ob.) represented a first county breeding record. Ninety-eight Black Terns at the El Paso area reservoirs 29 Jul (JPa) represented a very high count for that region. Single ad. Brown Noddies were found at the Packery Channel jetty 20 Jun (†DT) and on Padre Island N.S., Kleberg 13 Jul (†PHa), and 2 ads. were resting on a petroleum platform 72 km. se. of Port Aransas, Nueces 16 Jul (†SW).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Burrowing Owl near Charlie, Wichita 17 Jun was a good find (PM). A Burrowing Owl was still present 23 Jun on the King Ranch, Kleberg (TLa, BW), providing a rare recent Jun record within its historical breeding range. A Mottled Owl was well described from the Frontera Audubon Sanctuary in Weslaco, Hidalgo 5-11 Jul (†SP, †SK), providing the 2nd record for the state. A Green Violet-ear in Liverpool, Brazoria 16-25 Jun was just the 2nd Upper Texas Coast record (ph. MB, †RWe); one in the Davis Mts. from the spring stayed through 3 Jul (M&ME). Closer to traditional haunts, Green Violet-ears appeared in w. San Antonio, Bexar 10-11 Jun (†RBo), s. of San Antonio 15-17 Jun (†C&TS, et al.), and w. of Austin, Travis 3-4 Jul (†AA). An imm. Green-breasted Mango was found in San Benito, Cameron 8-9 Jul (†TFu) in the same yard that has produced two previous records. Broad-billed Hummingbirds appeared all over the place in the Davis Mts. this summer: from 8 Jun+, up to 4 (2 males, 2 females) frequented the Eastman's feeders, another female was nearby 14 Jun (RPi), a male

was 16 km w. of Fort Davis 18 Jun (LHe), and yet another was reported from Ft. Davis (*vide* ML). The Broad-billed in the Christmas Mts., Brewster from the previous season remained through at least 10 Jul (COJ). The male White-eared Hummingbird that appeared in the Davis Mts. in Apr was joined by a female 3 Jun+ (†ML). A different female elsewhere in the Davis Mts., present since 28 May, was last seen 22 Jul (M&ME), and another female was noted in the Chisos Mts., Brewster 25 Jun (†JMi). A remarkable 30 Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were counted 22 Jul at Frontera Audubon Sanctuary, Hidalgo (MG). A Buff-bellied from the spring near Sweeney, Brazoria remained into Jun (PHu). A possible



Curlew Sandpiper is a very rare visitor to Texas, particularly in summer. This individual at Bolivar Flats, Galveston County 3 June 2006 provided the second summer record for the state. Photograph by Cin-Ty Lee.

Amethyst-throated Hummingbird (*Lampornis amethystinus*) was photographed in San Benito, Cameron 4 Jul (†TFu), but the photographs do not provide an unequivocal identification. West of their usual range, a pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds remained through early Jun near Utopia, Uvalde (MH), while a possible juv. was reported from the same yard 10-22 Jun. East of its usual range, a Black-chinned Hummingbird visited a College Station feeder for three weeks beginning 15 Jul (JPh) for a first Brazos summer record. Lucifer Hummingbird × Black-chinned Hummingbird hybrids were photographed twice, with one in the Christmas Mts., Brewster 7 Jun (COJ) and another in the Davis Mts. 22 Jul+ (ML, M&ME). An imm. Anna's Hummingbird in El Paso 30 Jun-1 Jul (BZ) was a seasonal first for the local area and one of very few summer records for the entire state. A female Broad-tailed Hummingbird in El Paso 5 Jun (BZ) was also late.

Extralimital Green Kingfishers included one in Salado, Bell 19 Jun-11 Jul (RPi) and one near Bay City, Matagorda 8 Jul (RWA). Single Red-headed Woodpeckers were noteworthy in Brazos 7 Jun and Washington 7 Jul, where the species has been scarce in summer since 1990 (DVo, AM). A Ladder-backed

Woodpecker in Milam 15 Jul was a county first (DDC, DL), while another in Waller 2 Jul (KC) provided a rare summer record for that county. Breeding Downy Woodpeckers were discovered in the South Plains near Afton, Dickens 17 Jun (AHe, RKO) for the 2nd year in a row. Hairy Woodpecker was rediscovered 12 Jun on the Oak Grove B.B.S. (Madison/Grimes/Walker) after a 20-year absence from the list (DVo). Hairy Woodpeckers were also reported 17 Jun from the n. edge of the Upper Texas Coast at Jesse Jones Park, Harris (LO) and 8 Jul at Cullinan Park, Fort Bend (BGr). The latter is most interesting, as this park is well s. of the pine woodlands. Fledgling Northern Flickers 2 Jun along Houston's Buffalo Bayou, Harris provided evidence of local breeding (JKe).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Randall 24 Jul (KS) furnished the earliest fall record for the Panhandle. A Western Wood-Pewee in Lubbock 3 Jun (BB) represented a late spring report for the South Plains, while another at Palo Duro S.P., Randall 22 Jul (LS, m.ob.) represented an early fall report for the Panhandle. An Eastern Wood-Pewee at Sea Rim S.P., Jefferson 2 Jun (DVe) was apparently a very late migrant. An early Alder Flycatcher was observed 1 Jul at Tawakoni, Van Zandt (RKi). A Least Flycatcher mist-netted in Coryell 7 Jul (DC, RKO) was unusually early. Early migrant Least Flycatchers were found 23 Jul at Sabine Woods, Jefferson and High I., Galveston (DVe). A Cordilleran Flycatcher was reported from Midland 29 Jul (m.ob.). Buff-breasted Flycatchers were found at four locations in the Davis Mountains Preserve. A male singing 12 Jun in Elbow Canyon represented a new location (KBr, ML, JPa, RPi). The other locations had a lone male, a pair that failed to fledge young, and another pair that ultimately fledged 2 young (ML). A Black Phoebe found 3 Jun at Houston's Bear Creek Park, Harris was the first-ever Upper Texas Coast record for the summer season (MA) and was possibly the same individual that wintered a few km away. An Eastern Phoebe at L. Meredith, Moore 17 Jun (BPi) was far w. of its usual haunts within the Panhandle. Scattered Eastern Phoebes were reported in Jun and early Jul from the cen Brazos valley, where the species' breeding range is expanding (DVo). A Vermilion Flycatcher photographed in Donley 12 Jul (*vide* RM) was a 2nd county record. Two vocal pairs of Dusky-capped Flycatchers were in the Davis Mts. 8 Jul; although nesting was suspected, no young were noted (†ML). East of its normal summer range was an Ash-throat-

ed Flycatcher photographed 7 Jun in Brazos (DVo, ph. AM). Five Great Crested Flycatchers near Afton, Dickens 17 Jun (AHe, RkO) were evidence of continued breeding only recently documented in the South Plains. Two Couch's Kingbirds were reported 3 Jun at Austin, Travis (LF), while ad. and fledgling Couch's were observed 15 Jun–19 Jul in w. Bastrop (BFR). Yet another Couch's was noteworthy at a separate Austin location 13 Jul (CSc). A female Rose-throated Becard present at Santa Ana N.W.R. since late May remained unpaired as she continued to build a nest through 17 Jun and was not reported thereafter (MG, GL).

A nesting pair of Bell's Vireos in Motley 3 Jun (AHe, AvH) represented a very rare breeding attempt for the South Plains. Another Bell's was reported from Wise 3 Jul (CC). Up to 6 Black-capped Vireos comprising two family groups were observed 19 Jun in Mason (DF, MM). Breeding by Warbling Vireos at Webberville County Park, Travis was confirmed by Freeman when he observed a fledgling 5 Jul. This remains the southernmost confirmed breeding location in the state. A family of 4 Warbling Vireos at Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Randall 14 Jul (LS) represented a first county breeding record. Early migrant Red-eyed Vireos were noted at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 23 Jul (DVe) and at the Quintana, Brazoria 29 Jul (GLa). A vireo photographed 19 Jul at Eisenhower Park, Harris showed plumage and vocal features intermediate between Red-eyed and Black-whiskered (MR). A pair of Yellow-green Vireos was present 3 Jun–22 Jul at Sabal Palm Sanctuary, Cameron (ph. CB). Seven ad. Tree Swallows with 3 fledglings at Greenbelt L., Donley 10–11 Jun (BPI, m.ob.) provided the 3rd nesting record for the Panhandle. A Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Jesse Jones Park, Harris 3 Jun (LO) was likely a late migrant. Cave Swallows continue to be found in new places on the South Plains. This season a colony of 26 ads., attending 15 nests, was found near Wellman, Terry 11 Jun (AnH).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

A surprising find considering the season and the location was a House Wren in Midland, Midland 5 Jul (RMS). Very early migrant Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted on the Upper Texas Coast, with 2 at Bear Creek Park, Harris 21 Jul (JG) and one at High I., Galveston 23 Jul (DVe). A lingering Wood Thrush was in Bellaire, Harris 30 May–5 Jun, and possibly the same individual was heard singing there 27–30 Jun (DVe). The long-staying Clay-colored Robin in Lake Jackson, Brazoria was present through the period (TMO). Two

Brown Thrashers made their way to Sabine Woods, Jefferson 23 Jul (DVe).

A very early migrant Virginia's Warbler was found in El Paso, El Paso 23 Jul (JSp). Northern Parula, a very local breeder in n.-cen. Texas, was noted throughout the period at White Rock L., Dallas (m.ob.) and in Plano, Collin (PA), where nesting was confirmed, of interest. A late migrating Yellow Warbler was in Lubbock, Lubbock 1 Jun (KD), while a very early migrant was noted at Anahuac N.W.R., Chambers 6 Jul (JKe). Another lingering migrant was a Cape May Warbler at South Padre I., Cameron Jun 6 (ScC). A silent male Black-throated Gray Warbler was located in the upper Davis Mts., Jeff Davis 13 Jun (ML, RPi); this species is not known to nest in the range, and its occurrence in summer in the state is not well understood. A lingering Black-throated Green Warbler at High I., Galveston 2 Jun (DVe) represented just the 2nd Jun record for the Upper Texas Coast. The Yellow-throated Warbler noted in the spring from the Davis Mts. was last seen 10 Jun (KB, ML, JP, RPi). A pair of Yellow-throated Warblers successfully nested near Franklin, Robertson (RS), providing the first nesting record for the county, while an early migrant was at Lafitte's Cove, Galveston 29 Jul (DVe). Very unexpected was a female Palm Warbler in Midland, Midland 12 Jun (D&JM); likewise very odd was a Prairie Warbler at L. Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 8 Jul (VW), while one at Quintana, Brazoria 29 Jul (ph. GLa) was an early migrant. A late American Redstart was in Midland 17 Jun (D&JM). Long suspected of being a breeding species in Brazos, this season nesting Prothonotary Warblers were discovered in the Navasota R. bottoms (DVo, AM). Following last year's discovery of a breeding population of Swainson's Warblers in se. Van Zandt, 4 were present in the same area 4 Jul (TR, CR). An Ovenbird along the Medina R. in s. Bexar 14 Jun (DEn) was definitely late. A Louisiana Waterthrush was a great find at Boot Spring, Brewster 23 Jul (DEI, RWo); a pair was at the L.B.J. National Grasslands, Wise 23 Jul (CC), suggesting local breeding. A Common Yellowthroat singing at College Station, Brazos 15 Jul (ER) provided a very rare local summer record. At least one of the spring Rufous-capped Warblers lingered at Concan, Uvalde through the season (MH). An amazing count of 59 Yellow-breasted Chats was made at White River L., Crosby 17 Jun (AnH, RK).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Providing a rare Hill Country sighting, a male Hepatic Tanager was near Spring Branch, Comal 26 Jul (BD). A very early Western Tanag-

er was noted at Muleshoe N.W.R., Bailey 15 Jul (BB). A male Flame-colored Tanager was reported from Big Bend's Juniper Flat, Brewster 2 Jul (†TLu); if accepted, it would be the 6th record for the state. Continuing the unusual influx of Cassin's Sparrows into cen. Texas this spring, numerous summer reports were received from Brown, Burnet, Coleman, Lampasas, Williamson (m.ob.), juvs. were observed in Travis 11 Jun (BSt), and this species also appeared to have nested around Granger L., Williamson (TFe). A count of 7 Field Sparrows at White River L., Crosby 2 Jul (AHe, RK) marked the 3rd consecutive summer the species has been present here and the highest number recorded thus far. Also of interest were 2 streaky juvs. among several singing ad. Field Sparrows at the L.B.J. National Grasslands, Wise 3 Jul (CC), providing a good breeding record where the species is of very local occurrence. A Vesper Sparrow in El Paso 7 Jun (JSp) was three weeks late and a summer first for the Trans-Pecos.

Indigo Buntings continue to increase as a breeding species on the South Plains; this season, a pair was discovered tending a nest along Turkey Cr., Motley 3 Jun (AHe, AvH), and 23 ads. and 3 fledglings were at White River L., Crosby 17 Jun (AHe, RK). A Dickcissel in the Davis Mts. 26 Jul (M&ME) was early. The continued expansion of Great-tailed Grackles into ne. Texas included two nests at the Gregg airport 2–17 Jun (DW, MHW), one in Henderson 3 Jul (MD), and several dozen resident birds in Tyler, Smith (PB). Bronzed Cowbirds continue to expand northward, new county records for Floyd were established this season, with 3 males near Floydada 3 Jun (AHe, AvH) and 3 others near Dougherty 4 Jun (AHe, AvH). What a sight it must have been to see 155+ post-breeding Orchard Orioles concentrated in a blueberry field in Nacogdoches 7 Jul (fide DW), 60+ of which were there already on 2 Jul. A second-year Bullock's Oriole 7 Jul (BFR) was a rare find for Hornsby Bend in Travis. Audubon's Orioles continue to be seen in the s.-cen. Hill Country. Heindel observed at least 3 during the period around Utopia, Uvalde, and a pair near Bandera, Bandera (LHi) raised young, providing the first nesting record for that region. Two House Finches in Galveston 14 Jun hinted that this species may yet colonize all the way to the immediate coast (SBa). Though breeding was not documented or indeed suspected, a few Pine Siskins hung around all period in the Davis Mts., with 3 in Ft. Davis (KBr) and a few at the Davis Mountains Resort (M&ME). In addition, one was in El Paso on 21 Jul (JKi), furnishing a very rare summer record there.

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Colorado & Wyoming



**Tony Leukering | Bill Schmoker
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Continuing an often-reported trend, the Region experienced warmer-than-average temperatures throughout the season. Using NOAA's climatic monitoring terms, Colorado experienced temperature conditions rated above normal to much above normal in June and July. Denver set a new record for the earliest 100° F + temperature

on 14 June, some 10 days earlier than the previous mark. Wyoming had mostly much above-normal temperatures in June, and about half of the state saw record-high temperatures in July. The Region's precipitation levels were mostly below normal in June, with most of Colorado relieved by above-normal precipitation in July. Wyoming's July precipitation was patchy, with some drainages climbing above normal while others remained near, below, or even much below normal.

Wyoming contributed the Region's first tubenose, an astounding specimen record of a species rarely seen anywhere in North America and almost unprecedented in the interior—Streaked Shearwater (see article in *North American Birds* 60: 324-326). A few rarities rewarded patient chasers, including Magnificent Hummingbird, Phainopepla, and Hooded Oriole. Cassin's Sparrow and Dickcissel seem closely linked in irruption years, and this season was no exception, as unusually high numbers of both were recorded outside of their core ranges. Several species appear to be continuing their breeding range expansion in the Region, including Hooded Merganser, Mississippi Kite, Sandhill Crane, White-winged Dove, Short-eared Owl, and Eastern

Bluebird. Four immature Purple Martins of the eastern (nominata) subspecies loitered for nearly a month at a martin house in southeastern Colorado, not breeding this year but perhaps the vanguard for future colonization of this subspecies in the state. Several Merlin sightings in Colorado this summer also fueled speculation that the species may be colonizing the area. The theme of breeding status will be more actively explored next year as Colorado's second *Breeding Bird Atlas* begins field work.

Abbreviations: Barr (Barr Lake S.P., Adams), Crow Valley (Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grassland, Weld); "West Slope" denotes locations w. of the Rockies. Due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Colorado except that each Wyoming location is noted as such the first time it appears in the text.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Summer reports of large, white waterfowl included single Snow Geese in each of two e Colorado counties and a Trumpeter Swan at the unlikely high-elevation location of Crest-