

Einemann; LMc represents Louis McGee.

Unspecified "cited observers:" KANSAS: John Northrup (JNo), Chuck Orte, Scott Seltman, Tom & Sara Shane, Art Smallwell, Mike Stewart, Don Vannoy. NEBRASKA: Ronald Barth (RbA), Ed Brogie, Mark Brogie, Thomas Hoffman (THo), Bill F. Huser, Jan Johnson (JJo), Alice Kenitz, James Mountjoy (JMo), Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, **Richard C. Rosche**, John Sullivan (JSu). OKLAHOMA: James W. Arterburn, Paul Bjornen, Bill Carrell, David Chapman, Vera Hughes, Martha Kamp, Larry Mays, Janet McGee (JMc), Mike Mlodonov (MMl), P. Moser, Dorothy Newell, John Prater, Jim Thayer, Ernie Wilson.

Specific Errors: The Golden Eagle reported from Ewing, NE Dec. 26 was in *Holt*, NE. A Peregrine falcon reported from Wehrspann Feb. 19 was in *Sarpy*, NE. The 22 Greater Yellowlegs counted Jan. 14 in *Cleveland*, OK were observed by N. Kuhnert and L. Mays (not JAG). Thayer's Gull Dec. 21 in *Lancaster*, NE was observed by SJD and WRS. The count of 16 Glaucous Gulls Feb. 24 occurred at McConaughy. The Great Black-backed Gull in *Sedgwick*, KS Jan 14-15 was observed by JNo and PJ. The Loggerhead Shrike reported from Hazard Jan. 1 was in *Phelps*, NE. The Ovenbird noted in *Oklahoma* Dec. 16 was found by Ernie Wilson. The White-throated Sparrow wintering in Gibbon, NE was in *Buffalo*, NE. The Yellow-headed Blackbird reported from Grand I., Dec. 16 was in *Hall*, NE; another from Kiowa W.M.A. was in *Scottsbluff*, NE. The White-winged Crossbills from Norfolk Cemetery Jan. 29 were in *Madison*, NE; the others from North Platte were in *Lincoln*, NE. The Hoary Redpoll from Wakefield, NE Jan. 29-Feb. 29 was in *Wayne*, NE.

Significant omissions: A Tundra Swan was noted in *Tulsa* Jan. 20 (NL). An Am. Black Duck was observed Jan. 28 in *Tulsa* (JL, PS). Forty Greater Scaup were counted in *Oklahoma* Feb. 18 (NK). An Oldsquaw was recorded in *Sedgwick*, KS Jan. 20-25 (DV, MLe). One hundred Red-breasted Mergansers were present Jan. 27 in *Sequoyah*, OK (MMl, DC, JP).

A Merlin roost containing five birds was discovered in *Cleveland*, OK by Nathan Kuhnert; this phenomena is almost never observed anywhere. A Peregrine Falcon was observed in *Sedgwick*, KS Jan. 25 (PJ). A Virginia Rail was noted Jan. 1 in *Cimarron*, OK (JAG). A Greater Yellowlegs was observed Feb. 18 in *Sedgwick*, KS (BD, JNo, PJ). A California Gull was located in *Sedgwick*, KS Jan. 14 (PJ). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull in *Oklahoma* Dec. 28-Feb. 12 (JGN, DN) may well be the

same individual reported there since 1984. Overwintering Forster's Terns were noted in *Sequoyah*, OK Jan. 27 (MMl, DC, JP) and in *Cleveland*, OK Feb. 29 (NK).

A Eur. Collared Dove present in *Muskogee*, OK remained through the winter period (VJ). A Rock Wren that wandered to *Cherokee*, OK was observed Dec. 9 (JN). A Curve-billed Thrasher Feb. 18 in *Haskell*, KS (JD) provided a new county record. A Gray Catbird in *Tulsa* Dec. 9 (PM) was unexpected. An estimated 600 Mt. Bluebirds were in *Barber*, KS Dec. 17 (PJ).

A Com. Yellowthroat was observed in downtown *Tulsa* Dec. 7 (JWA). A real surprise was a ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak in *Cleveland*, OK Dec. 30-Jan 7 (PB). Twenty-two Chipping Sparrows were noted in *Comanche*, OK Dec. 16 (JDT *et al.*). With almost no winter records for the Region of any kind, a Clay-colored Sparrow that appeared at a feeder in *Comanche*, OK (JMc, LMc) was quite a surprise. A Vesper Sparrow was carefully studied in *Cleveland*, OK Dec. 30 (NK). The winter status of this species is clouded by misidentifications. Swirls of Lapland Longspurs estimated at 18,000 birds were observed on one section in *Cimarron*, OK Jan. 2 (JAG, NK). A Lesser Goldfinch remained in *Tulsa* Jan 31-Feb. 29 (VH, MK, JL).

Cited observers (area editors boldfaced):

KANSAS: Steve Addinall, Louis & Jane Betros, Donna Borg, Roger Boyd, Bill Busby, Mark & Elaine Corder, Bob Fisher, David Fisher, Pete Janzen, Mick McHugh, **Lloyd Moore**, Dan Mulhearn, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Eric Preston, Dave Rintoul, Mike Rader, John Schukman, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, Lawrence & Ruth Smith, Max Thompson. NEBRASKA: Laurence & Carol Falk, Marlin French, Robin Harding, Jan Johnson, Joel G. Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Lucy Koenig, Kent Lucas, Sue Lucas, Larry K. Malone, Thomas Mobraey, James Mountjoy, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Lanny Randolph, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, **W. Ross Silcock**. OKLAHOMA: Vicki Byre, Chet Gresham, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Berlin Heck, Laura Hunnicutt, J. Kishner, Nathan Kuhnert, **Jo Loyd**, **Louis McGee (LMc)**, Steve Metz, Mitchell Oliphant, Aline Romero, Pat Seibert, Euelda Sharp, D. Sherry, L. Silkey, Jack D. Tyler, Jeff Webster.

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Texas Region

GREG W. LASLEY, CHUCK SEXTON, WILLIE SEKULA, AND MARK LOCKWOOD

The continuing severe drought was "the dominant reality" (P. Palmer). Even moist east Texas was getting bone dry. There was spotty relief with rains in north Texas and the Panhandle in July, but almost universally observers described the rains as being too late to help the nesting season. Groups as diverse as gallinules, skimmer, and virtually all neotropical migrant passerines had poor success. Some species, and many individuals of some species, simply did not breed. Exceptions were few: Some swallows and Least Terns in north Texas did fine. In central Texas, early nesters (and, apparently, principally cavity nesters) such as titmice and chickadees seemed to raise more broods than other species.

The Regional exception was far west Texas which, due to its contrast with the rest of the state, deserves some detailed mention. Kelly Bryan wrote that "June was not a part of the summer season this year. It was just a continuation of the spring migration period as numerous shorebirds and passerines passed through the region late, some to the end of the month. Has the drought been broken? Well, probably. Rains appeared in parts of the Trans-Pecos as early as the first week of June. The Chisos returned to their notorious lush conditions by mid-June and Boot Spring was a raging torrent at times, but the mountains of Big Bend benefited from late May rains that the rest of the Region did not receive.

"The Davis Mountains turned green in places; however, [one good measure] of the drought is whether or not Limpia Creek reestablished a sustained flow. It did not. In Davis Mountains State Park, the lower part of the canyon was lush green by the end of July, the upper part still brown. The good news is that the moisture patterns have been repetitious for two months and if August will continue with the same pattern, then by mid-fall the drought should be significantly bashed. Folks are still praying for a Pacific or Gulf tropical storm or hurricane." It gives us a good feeling (and a touch of envy) to report that at least that part of the state came through the summer in good shape.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); S.S.W.T.P. (*South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee/Texas Ornithological Society*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Bentsen, Big Bend, Hagerman, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Lost Maples, and Santa Ana.

Loons to Storks

Common Loons occasionally summer along the coast, but inland records are more unusual. This season single Com. Loons were at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson*, June 28 (MD, RG) and L. Texoma June 18–19 (LL). At least three Clark's and two Western grebes summered at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, but nesting evidence was not observed (*vide BZ*). There were 3 pelagic trips off the Texas coast this season; one from Port Isabel June 1 and single trips from Port O'Connor June 29 and July 27. Perhaps a sign of our increasing knowledge and familiarity of our offshore avifauna, we have yet to receive any documentation from observers of the following reports from those pelagics. Birds thought to be very rare in Texas just a few years ago now seem to be more routine at this season. Two Cory's Shearwaters were seen July 27. A total of 11 Audubon's Shearwaters were seen on the 3 trips. Single Leach's

Storm-Petrels were seen on the 2 June trips, while four, 11, and seven Band-rumped on the 3 successive trips continue to demonstrate that the latter species is our "expected" summer storm-petrel. We received reports of seven Brown Pelicans at inland locations as far flung as McNary Res., L. Meredith, and Waco. At Pelican Is., an important Brown Pelican nesting site in *Nueces*, only 406 young were produced from 889 nests. Apparently more than half of the nests were abandoned, with human disturbance being the most likely explanation (*vide National Audubon Society data*). On the upside, ≥ 1800 young Brown Pelicans fledged at Sundown I., *Matagorda* (*vide BF*). Up to three Am. White Pelicans were at McNary and Tornillo Res., June 13–July 18 (ph., JPa, BZ) for only the 2nd summer record for that area. Fifteen Double-crested Cormorant nests were at Palo Duro Res., *Hansford*, June 4 (KS). In addition to the Neotropic Cormorant nests mentioned at Ft. Hancock in the spring, 10 Double-crested Cormorant nests were located there this summer, while another 20 were at McNary (JPa). An Am. Bittern at Cooper L., *Delta*, July 24 provided a first summer record for that area (MWh). The drought effects were felt at Anahuac, where Shoveler Pond was nearly dry, resulting in no sightings of Least Bitterns in July (MA). Out-of-place Reddish Egrets included one white-morph bird at L. Balmorhea, *Reeves*, July 12+ (DH, JPa) and

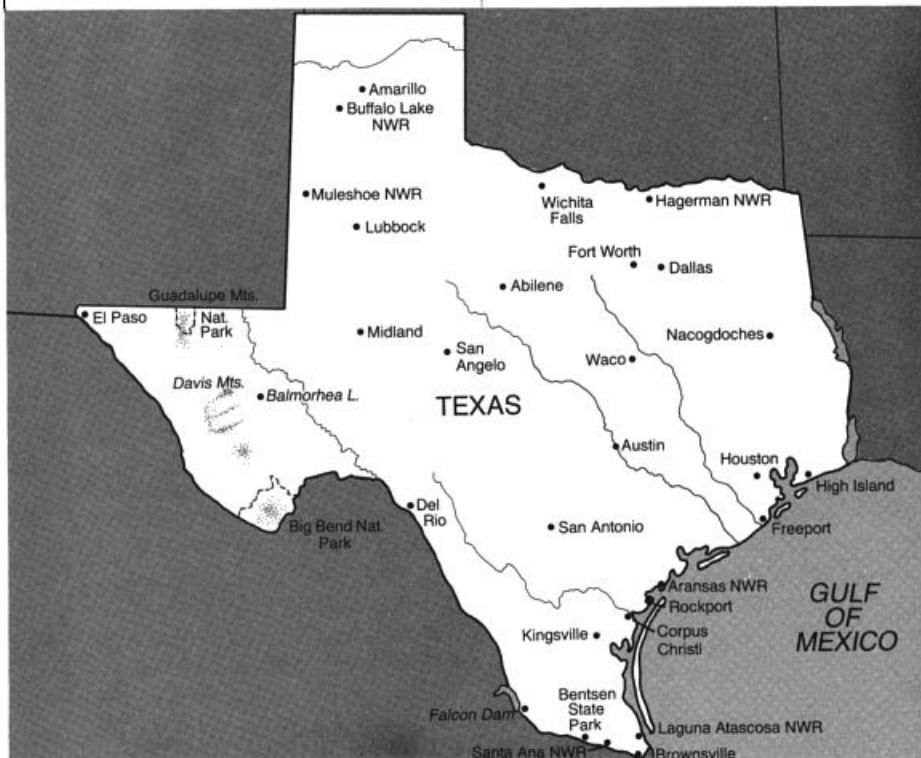
another (dark morph) at Hagerman July 21 (LL). Cattle Egrets continue their increasing summer presence in the Panhandle. Two active nests at Sunray, *Moore*, represent the northernmost breeding location for these birds. An ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron in Georgetown June 18 (RMe) represented a rare summer record for the Austin area. Glossy Ibises continue to be more in evidence in Texas, with two–three reported all season at Anahuac, one at Santa Ana June 8 (†OC), and another at Corpus Christi in mid-June (AC, GS). Most intriguing, and suggestive of nesting, was the observation of an ad. Glossy Ibis in a nesting colony of White-faced Ibises at Sundown I., June 30 and July 7 (BF, PH). A few Roseate Spoonbills wandered inland to *Nacogdoches*, Abilene, and Ft. Worth (m.ob.). A group of 13 Wood Storks at Caddo L., July 1 was of interest; we received a 3rd-hand report of a Wood Stork at this location "carrying a stick in its bill" June 15, 1995 (R. Hamilton *et al.*, Louisiana State University). The sp. has not been known to nest in Texas for many decades. Elsewhere, notable Wood Stork reports included 43 at Cooper L., July 13 (MWh), and 30 at Dallas July 7 (EW).

Waterfowl

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks made news at 2 locations; 2 broods were raised at a treatment plant at Hamby, *Jones* (LB), while a single bird was at Imperial Res., *Pecos*, June 26–July 3 (BJP). A Snow Goose and a Ross' Goose summered at Bryan (KA). On various dates in June and July, from four–thirteen Muscovy Ducks were seen below Falcon Dam (TB, JI). There was concrete evidence of successful nesting of Wood Ducks in *Starr* and at Brownsville (TB, BMc). We had reports of 11 various sp. of dabbling and diving ducks lingering through the season at scattered locations. A Green-winged Teal was very late on Padre I., *Nueces*, June 2 (MC, WS). A ♂ Mottled Duck was paired with a ♀ Mallard at Texas Eastman, *Harrison*, June 16 (GLu, CSh). At Ft. Bliss, Redheads produced at least 5 broods (BZ). An ad. ♂ Surf Scoter in breeding plumage was in Rockport June 3 (E&NA, MC, WJ), while a Com. Merganser was at L. Meredith June 28 (MD, RG). A Masked Duck was reported at Corpus Christi June 15 & 20 (GS, AC).

Raptors

A pair of Swallow-tailed Kites successfully nested on the Trinity R., *Chambers*, providing only the 2nd documented modern nesting record for the state. The nest was



discovered June 27 and one young kite had fledged by July 13 (ph., G&LSk, D&JDa). Interestingly, another Swallow-tailed Kite was seen near Lumberton, *Hardin*, June 10 (CW). A pair of White-tailed Kites, very rare nesters in n. Texas, was observed in display flight June 15 in *Navarro* (GHo, EW); unfortunately, nesting evidence was not found. An ad. Mississippi Kite was foraging low over U.S. 59 in *Polk* June 28; this sp. is an extremely local nester in the Pineywoods of e. Texas. An ad. Com. Black-Hawk was observed near Christoval, *Tom Green*, July 17 (ph., TM *et al.*). Maxwell returned the next day and discovered a nest and one young bird, providing the first nesting record for the county and one of few in the state away from the Davis Mts. Harris' Hawks continue to be seen in the Lubbock area; from one–three were observed June 1–July 12 (MCA, BR). Gray Hawks were reported at Santa Ana, Fronton, Bentsen, and Big Bend during June and July. At the w. edge of the nesting range, a pair of Broad-winged Hawks fledged one young at Waco (EGW). An ad. light-morph Short-tailed Hawk was found at Santa Ana June 4 (†TB) and was observed irregularly there through at least July 29 (m.ob.). Excellent photos of this bird were taken July 27 by Jones. A radio-equipped Aplomado Falcon, we presume from the Laguna Atascosa hacking program, was tracked to the Kingsville area in late July (*vide* JE). Inter-



This Short-tailed Hawk, an adult of the light morph, was present all summer at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, where it was photographed July 27, 1996. Photograph/Dan Jones.

esting summer Peregrine Falcon records included single birds at Santa Ana July 12 (TB), Bentsen July 26 (TB), and Buffalo L. in late July (LNY).

Turkey to Shorebirds

Wild Turkeys and N. Bobwhites had a terrible nesting season throughout the drought-ridden areas of Texas; few nests and almost no chicks were reported by late in the season. Two Scaled Quail in *Throckmorton* June 1 and another in *Archer* June 9 represented rare records for that region. A Black Rail was calling at Indianola July 30 (BF). Whittle and Risser observed a Sora at Anahuac July 14; summer records of this sp. on the U.T.C. are rare. A fearless Sora spent the season in a Corpus Christi residential yard, making use of a man-made wading pool and ornamental vegetation for habitat (KT, VS). Inland Piping Plover records included single birds at Sam Rayburn Res., July 19 (CDF), Dallas July 19 (RR), and at Hagerman July 23 (JCh). American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts were abundant at Ft. Bliss due to low water levels; they had numerous successful nests (*vide* BZ). Two imm. N. Jacanas were reported without documentation at Falcon Dam July 24 (JI). In an area where previously found in summer, two Upland Sandpipers in *Ochiltree* June 6 (KS) again raised the possibility of nesting. Trying to sort out the summering shorebirds from late-spring migrants and early-fall arrivals is normally confusing, but especially so in this unusual year. The following species were reported in small numbers through June and July along the coast: Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Red Knot. A bit more interesting was a Whimbrel inland at Choke Canyon June 16 (WS), a Marbled Godwit and a Short-billed Dowitcher at L. Tawakoni June 13 (M&KWh), another Marbled Godwit at San Antonio July 12 (GSc), and six Dunlins June 2 at *Nacogdoches* (CDF). By the 2nd half of July the normal broad-scale influx of shorebirds was well underway.

SA The "blue ribbon" find of the season was an alternate-plumaged Red-necked Stint, a first for Texas, discovered by Zimmer and Emanuel at Ft. Bliss July 17. The bird was seen and documented by dozens of observers through July 22. Distant photos were obtained by several observers and an excellent VHS tape (shot through a scope) was taken by Hill. Veteran Texas observers had been expecting and looking for this sp. for many years.

Jaegers to Terns

Another stunning high Arctic surprise from the El Paso area was a Long-tailed Jaeger at McNary Res., June 12–14 († ph., JPa, BJ, RH). Late Franklin's Gulls included \leq eight at San Antonio's Mitchell L. through June 15, and one at Choke Canyon the next day (WS). Numbers of Franklin's Gulls summered at several reservoirs in the Trans-Pecos area (BJP, BZ), while an early Franklin's showed up at L. Tawakoni July 25 (M&KWh). A very worn, basic-plumaged Bonaparte's Gull was at Pleasure I., *Jefferson*, July 27 (MA); this represents the first summer record for the U.T.C. Two California Gulls were reported at L. Tawakoni June 1–29 (KN, MWh) while another first-summer California Gull was at McNary and Ft. Hancock June 12–Aug. 2 (†JPa, ph., BZ, VE). The lame imm. Great Black-backed Gull from Galveston's East Beach last season moved to Bolivar Flats, where it stayed through the summer. Another element of the Arctic influx at El Paso was an ad. Sabine's Gull at McNary Res., July 13–15 († ph., JPa, BZ, VE). A Caspian Tern at McNary Res., June 15–17 (LN, GN) added to the other unusual Larid records in the El Paso area. At least three ad. Com. Terns spent most of June at L. Tawakoni, while two others were at Cooper L., July 10–11 (M&KWh). Forster's Terns showed up at Tawakoni June 24 and peaked at nearly 1000 individuals near the end of July (MWh). After a year's hiatus, interior Least Terns nested again at S.S.W.T.P.; a total of 26 adults produced about seven young. A smaller number of Least Terns nested at Imperial Res., producing at least one young by July 25 (JPa). Elsewhere, out-of-place Least Terns were at Ft. Hancock July 15 (ph., BZ) and *Harrison* June 16 (GLu, CSh). Single Sooty Terns were seen on the beach at N. Padre I., *Kenedy*, June 28 (A&MC, WS) and at Bob Hall Pier, *Nueces*, the following day. On the June 29 and July 27 pelagic trips, Bridled Terns numbered three and 11 respectively, and Sooties numbered 21 and 61, with another 51 unidentified dark *Sterna* terns on the latter trip. An apparent ad. Brown Noddy was observed on N. Padre I., *Kenedy*, 18 mi s. of Malachite Beach June 28 (†MC, BS). If accepted by the T.B.R.C., this will represent only the 4th Texas record.

Doves to Swifts

Eurasian Collared-Doves are apparently moving into Texas in numbers. Although we have received reports of collared-doves being released by some dove fanciers, we believe a substantial number of the reports are of birds entering Texas from Louisiana, where the sp. is now fairly common in

some locations. There were 10–20 Eur. Collared-Doves in and around Smith Pt., *Chambers*, all season (LSk), and another was in *Gregg* June 19 (CCo). This sp. is not yet accepted on the Texas list, but the first records of the bird are currently being reviewed. White-winged Doves continued their expansion northward, with several reported in the Panhandle area during the summer. Interesting Inca Dove nesting reports came from Ft. Davis (KB) and Kress, *Swisher*, June 7 (JRe, FS). White-tipped Doves continue to push the edge of their range northward; multiple birds were calling throughout the season at Corpus Christi (A&MC), and another was heard July 19 near Swinney Switch, *Live Oak*, for a first county record (PH). An injured Black-billed Cuckoo was found in Lubbock June 7 (LM, NM). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported to be in low numbers in the w. and c. sections of n.c. Texas (RR, DMc), but were apparently in normal numbers elsewhere. A juv. Burrowing Owl in *Throckmorton* June 1 confirmed nesting for the county (*vide* RR). An outstanding discovery was a juv. Long-eared Owl with an adult at Buffalo L., *Randall*, July 6 & 18 (BFo, CFo, Tfo); this was the first confirmed nesting in the n. Panhandle since 1920. A Lesser Nighthawk in *Lubbock* June 15 (ML) provided a rare summer record for that area. Apparently due to the drought, numbers of Chuck-will's-widows abandoned their nests in some of the s. areas of n.c. Texas (RK). A pair of Chimney Swifts, first seen June 23, later nested in Ft. Davis, providing the first nesting record for *Jeff Davis* (T&PF, ph., KB).

Hummingbirds to Woodpeckers

Becoming almost routine in the past few years, another Green Violet-ear was seen in *Bastrop* July 5 (†BF). A Blue-throated Hummingbird, well out-of-range, was at Lost Maples July 20+ (*vide* ML). A Lucifer Hummingbird was netted and photographed in the Davis Mts., June 3 (LH, GP); this sp. is normally considered to be only a post-breeding wanderer to this area. A presumed hybrid Lucifer x Black-chinned Hummingbird was in El Paso July 13–15 (†ph., BZ). Calliope Hummingbirds were reported in far greater numbers than usual in w. Texas during late July, with ≥6 reports in the Panhandle and dozens in the mountains of the Trans-Pecos. A Broad-tailed Hummingbird lingered at Amarillo until June 1 (RSc). A vocalizing Elegant Trogon was heard and briefly glimpsed June 16 in Boot Canyon, Big Bend (D&LH, MAd, † to T.B.R.C.); currently there are but 3 accepted Texas records of this species. In a repeat of last

year, a Ringed Kingfisher was at Park Chalk Bluff, *Uvalde*, June 19 (BL). Unusual was a Red-headed Woodpecker in Corpus Christi June 6 (VS).

SA Red-cockaded Woodpeckers are increasing on federal and state lands in Texas (*vide* United States Forest Service and Texas Parks & Wildlife). Surveys conducted in 1996 showed 271 “groups” on federal and state lands including Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, Angelina, and Sabine National Forests, the Alabama-Coshatta Indian Reservation and Big Thicket National Preserve, Jones State Forest, Fairchild State Forest, and the abandoned Huntsville State Fish Hatchery. There are approximately 45 groups on private lands mostly belonging to timber companies. Therefore, the total number of Red-cockaded Woodpecker groups in Texas is about 316 for 1996. NOTE: The term “group” refers to the former use of the word “clan,” which is a family group that can total from one–nine individuals (CSH).

Flycatchers to Swallows

Rather late were four W. Wood-Pewees at Buffalo L., June 8 (EK). A late Alder Flycatcher was singing in Kingsville June 4 (PP), while a late Willow Flycatcher was in Austin June 8 (GL). As is typical, migrant Least Flycatchers were in evidence across much of the state by late July. A late Cordilleran Flycatcher was in El Paso June 11 (JPa). Unusual Vermilion Flycatcher reports included one at Falcon Dam June 8 (TB) and another at Clarendon, *Donley*, June 23–27 (JO, JT). A calling Dusky-capped Flycatcher was in Madera Canyon in the Davis Mts., July 8 (†DH, LBa); there are but 6 accepted records of this sp. in Texas, despite numerous undocumented reports. Tropical Kingbirds continued at numerous *Cameron* locations, while another was reported at Santa Ana July 27 (TB). Remarkably, a calling Tropical Kingbird was found at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground June 24 (†BL, RD, ph., MAr, BRo), providing the first record between the L.R.G.V. and s.e. Arizona. Further documentation of this important occurrence was obtained July 19 when a Tropical Kingbird was tape recorded and again photographed there (VE, BZ). Flippo later confirmed three Tropicals and observed a nest. The nest was destroyed by a strong wind storm in late July and the birds were last seen Aug. 3 (*vide* MF). A pair of E. Kingbirds summered at Mid-

land, but nesting was not confirmed (FW). Another probable drought-related observation was the apparent poor nesting success of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in the w. areas of n.c. Texas (DMc, CE). In other areas, Scissor-taileds apparently had some successes. Purple Martins in much of s. and c. Texas had fair nesting success, but departed nesting colonies weeks earlier than normal. At Wichita Falls, a staging group of some 2000 martins July 29 perched on an upper power line and caused the wire to sag, coming in contact with another line. This resulted in a loud bang and bright sparks. Fortunately no birds were killed; however, McKee reported the birds left in a hurry and did not return. Tree Swallow is an extremely rare and very local nester in Texas, so the discovery of a nesting pair in a bluebird box in Waco June 25–July 1 was significant. Unfortunately, Bumgardner discovered the young birds had died on the latter date and speculated the >100°F. heat over many days had simply “cooked” the nestlings. A colony of 100 Cliff Swallows was discovered over the Neches R., *Jefferson* (JW). Cliff Swallows are showing up at other areas in e. Texas as well; nesting colonies were also found in *Angelina* (13 nests) and *Houston* this season (DW, RWr, CSh). Cave Swallows continue to move and show up in new locations. Part of their expansion is undoubtedly related to their adaptability in choosing nesting sites. Perhaps Palmer stated it best: “It still amazes me that this sp. has adapted to nesting at what would have been considered totally unacceptable sites only a few years ago.” In addition to natural caves and highway culverts, the sp. is now nesting under the eaves of roofs, in carports, and under picnic table shelters in many areas. A new colony of Cave Swallows was discovered under a bridge on the *Fort Bend/Brazoria* line June 8 (ph., JRa), while other new locations for Cave Swallows included several sites in *Delta*, *Rains*, and *Palo Pinto* (MWh, KN).

Jays to Shrikes

A Green Jay at Goliad July 30 (ME) was slightly away from its normal range. Unusual were two Fish Crows in *Delta* June 18 (M&KWh). A pair of Carolina Chickadees was present in Midland through June 8 (DK). Most unusual was a Red-breasted Nuthatch in the desert at Big Bend Ranch, *Presidio*, June 5 (KB). Providing only the 2nd confirmed nesting for the Panhandle were young White-breasted Nuthatches being fed at the nest at L. McClellan, *Gray*, May 1 (KS). Cactus Wrens appeared to be retreating from the

w. edge of n.c. Texas; the only breeding bird survey reporting the sp. was in *Schackelford* (RK). A late Hermit Thrush was in El Paso June 6 (JPa), while a late Swainson's Thrush was in Midland June 3–5 (D&JMe). A pair of Clay-colored Robins was present all season at Anzalduas and apparently nested. Up to four Clay-colored Robins were reported without documentation at Fronton, *Starr*, July 27–28 (*fide* DSa). A Gray Catbird in Mason July 14 was very unexpected (DF, BoF). A rarity indeed was a ♂ Phainopepla in *Lubbock* June 2–3 (C&DSt). Palmer reports that Loggerhead Shrikes continue to be a common to abundant nester in *Kleberg*.

Vireos to Warblers

A White-eyed Vireo in Midland July 28 was a surprise (D&JMe). A juv. Bell's Vireo was on the Alazan Bayou, *Nacogdoches*, July 10, and an adult was singing at the same location July 27 (CSh); the sp. is a very local breeder in e. Texas. Bell's Vireos also made news in Midland, with an unprecedented 3 breeding pairs (FW). Kickapoo has proved to be one of the premier locations for Black-capped Vireos in Texas, but that area was particularly hard-hit by drought this season. Of >100 pairs of Black-capped, only 3 successful nests were reported (DaS). Other Black-capped Vireo observations of note included the first *Brown* record June 16 (CH) and a high count of seven birds in *Palo Pinto* June 8 (KN). A late "Cassin's" Solitary Vireo was at Big Bend Ranch June 5 (KB). A Warbling Vireo was on territory in Ft. Davis in early June (KB) and another was noted in El Paso June 11 (JPa). Undocumented Yellow-green Vireos were reported at Santa Ana July 2 and Bentsen June 14–26. There was a profusion of late and unusual warbler records, mostly in w. Texas. Could this be related to the drought? A singing Blue-winged Warbler was in a mesquite thicket near Clarendon June 6 (FSH); there are less than a half-dozen records of this sp. in the Panhandle area, and to find one on such a late date was remarkable. Colima Warblers arrived at Big Bend on schedule in April, but found extremely dry conditions in many of their traditional nesting areas, such as Boot Canyon. By May they were sparse and hard to find. A census conducted by Wauer *et al.* turned up the fewest Colimas ever in traditional count areas, but located a number of birds on north-facing slopes and at lower elevations than normal. The census resulted in 68 pairs of Colimas. At least a dozen Tropical Parulas were reported in various s. Texas locations. Two singing Yellow Warblers at Taylor Lakes

W.M.A., *Donley*, June 17 were engaged in a territorial dispute, indicating possible nesting (KS); there are no modern nesting records for Texas. Golden-cheeked Warblers were spotty at best across their range (*fide* ML, CS). Late freezes in the spring and the severe drought apparently reduced food supplies, which had the consequence that many pairs at Balcones Canyonlands either had failed or late nests, or failed to nest altogether. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Hagerman July 25 was an early and rare find (KH). There were a number of late Black-and-white Warblers reported in the Trans-Pecos; another at Santa Ana July 20 (*fide* JI) was a bit early for a southbound migrant, but not surprising considering the drought conditions in the nearest parts of its breeding range (*e.g.*, Texas Hill Country). A late Am. Redstart and two Ovenbirds were in El Paso June 1–10 (JPa). Numerous Prothonotary and Kentucky warblers abandoned their nests in some areas of n.c. Texas due to dry conditions. A late Wilson's Warbler was in the Davis Mts., June 6 (KB). Hard to account for was a singing Hooded Warbler at Palo Duro Canyon June 15 (JRe, JH *et al.*).

Tanagers to Finches

Not known to nest in the L.R.G.V., a Summer Tanager was at Falcon July 24 (JI). In many areas of central Texas the drought significantly affected grassland species; many breeding bird surveys found few to no Dickcissels or Grasshopper Sparrows in areas where those sp. are usually common (m.ob.). A Canyon Towhee, rare and local in n.c. Texas, was found in *Palo Pinto* June 8 (KN). Two Black-throated Sparrows were in *Shackelford* June 9 (KN), the first there in 8 years. A group of seven Lark Buntings were out-of-season in *Hidalgo* July 20 (JI). A Great-tailed Grackle visited an active heronry on Steinhagen Res., *Jasper*, June 29 (CSh), providing probably the first record for this sp. in "the heart" of the Pineywoods ecoregion of e. Texas. An Orchard Oriole in El Paso June 26 (BZ) was a surprise, as were two Scott's Orioles in Abilene in late June (LB). House Finches showed up at some new locations this season: one in Corpus Christi June 1–July 22 (*fide* GS), one in McAllen June 3 (ph., JK), two in Woodville July 28 (CW), and three in Berclair, *Goliad*, July 30 (PH). Perhaps an indication of the fall season ahead, a Red Crossbill was found dead in Dumas, *Moore*, July 14 (J&RA), and two were in Boot Canyon, Big Bend, July 20 (BZ, VE). A Pine Siskin remained at a Ft. Davis feeder until June 22 (KB), while another was in the Chisos Mts., June 24 (MF) A

Lesser Goldfinch, rare in the L.R.G.V., was singing at Santa Ana June 1, and three others were along the Rio Grande in *Starr* June 8 (TB).

Addenda

We received belated reports of single Black-legged Kittiwakes at Austin Mar. 3 (†LHo), and at Galveston Jan. 8 (†ph, RPe). A ♂ Lesser Goldfinch was at High I., Apr. 26 (CSh, ph. HW), providing a very rare U.T.C. record.

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Idaho-Western Montana Region

DAN SVINGEN

The effects of a late spring were noticeable through Summer 1996, even though June and July were generally mild and dry. Delayed snowmelt in the mountains meant high river levels through June, snow-covered alpine areas into July, and a lack of mudflats at irrigation reservoirs. Many observers commented on delayed phenology, affecting species' abundance, migration, nesting, and post-breeding dispersal.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (*American Falls Res., by American Falls, ID*).

Loons to Ducks

A surprising number of summering Idaho Com. Loons were reported, including an adult and immature at Mud Lake W.M.A., *Jefferson*, June 27 (PHS), one–two immatures on Coeur d'Alene L., *Kootenai*, July 2 & 20–21 (C.A.S., CC, CLC, GC), and an ad. pair and an immature on Pend O'reille L., *Bonner* (PC). A Clark's Grebe on Pend O'reille L., June 2 (KD, C&SW) was far north of its normal Idaho range. Benefiting from more stable water levels, Red-necked Grebe successfully nested at Kootenai N.W.R., *Bonner*, ID, for the first time in several years (JRe). High water may also have been responsible for the species successfully nesting near Helena, MT (MV, *fide* DSk) for the first time.

— An Am. White Pelican was at Coeur d'Alene W.M.A., *Kootenai*, ID July 20 (JWN, CC), near where six were seen last

season. The number and range of Double-crested Cormorants continues to increase Regionwide. Unusual sightings this season included two on Pend O'reille L., June 9 and July 17 (C.A.S., PC), one–two on Coeur d'Alene L. throughout June and July (J&HS, *fide* SHS), and *eight* on Chatcolet L., *Benevoh*, ID June 12 (*fide* SHS).

— An Am. Bittern was at Minidoka N.W.R., *Cassia*, ID June 23 (JH, MH), where rarely reported. Two–three Great Egrets were at Mud Lake W.M.A. June 19–27 (DNS, IS, m.ob.), where the species failed to nest last year. A Cattle Egret by Helena, MT June 2 (MV) provided a 2nd record for Latilong 28.

— A late Snow Goose was at Market Lake W.M.A., *Jefferson*, ID June 16 (EH, SS, CT). Locally rare anytime, a ♂ Harlequin Duck near Salmon, ID July 27 (LA) was also unseasonal, as the species is rarely detected during "fall" migration.

Vultures to Terns

A Turkey Vulture nest near Headquarters, ID July 20 furnished a first for Latilong 5 (MP). The species has been increasing in n. Idaho in recent years. This season 16 birds were reported in *Kootenai*, including four at Wolf Lodge Cr., June 2 (PAC, GC, SHS), four at Coeur d'Alene Lake's Mica Bay June 20 (C.A.S.), and up to four at Farragut S.P. throughout June and July (*fide* SHS). A Prairie Falcon on the Rathdrum Prairie, *Kootenai*, ID July 12 (RJ), provided a locally-rare summer record.

