

The event of the season was Hurricane *Claudette*, which made landfall near Port O'Connor and moved westward across south-central Texas and through the central Trans-Pecos. The most obvious effect of the storm was the large number of Magnificent Frigatebirds that appeared along the coast. For many areas along its path, the storm's rain was sorely needed. This was particularly true in the southern Trans-Pecos.

Overall, breeding conditions for the Trans-Pecos were quite varied this summer season. The far western and northern portions experienced the driest conditions, with El Paso continuing to suffer through drought conditions and the Guadalupe Mountains receiving very little precipitation. The Davis Mountains saw average rainfall, while southern areas, such as Big Bend National Park, enjoyed above-average precipitation and continuously green, relatively lush landscapes during the season. In northwestern Texas, the contrast between June and July could not have been greater: June was cool and wet, making up for dry conditions during the spring, but the spigot was turned off on 1 July, resulting in a dry, hot days for the rest of the season. By the end of July, many of the playas in the Panhandle and South Plains had dried up. Midland continues to be in a hole, with all of the rainfall skipping over the Permian Basin.

**Abbreviations:** T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast); N.S. (National Seashore); W.M.A. (Wildlife Management Area). The following are shortened names for the respective local, county, state, or national parks, and wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Buffalo Lake, San Bernard, and Santa Ana.

### LOONS THROUGH STORKS

Common Loons lingered at two inland locations: Stillhouse Hollow L., Bell 25 Jun–13 Jul (GC, RPi) and Balmorhea L., Reeves 5–6 Jun (RR, BPe). Two pairs of Clark's Grebes with young were at Balmorhea L. 5 Jun–13 Jul (RR, ph. ML), providing a first nesting record for the county. When Hurricane *Claudette* passed over Port O'Connor, Calhoun 15 Jul, Freeman and Hockey observed one Cory's and 2 Audubon's Shearwaters, several unidentified storm-petrels, 2 Bri-

# Texas



dled/Sooty Terns and 2–3 unidentified jaegers. The 20 Jun pelagic trip out of South Padre I., Cameron, netted 4 Audubon's Shearwaters and 2 Leach's and 26 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (BMc et al.).

Of note was a group of 55 American White Pelicans at Stillhouse Hollow L. 17 Jul that may have moved inland as a result of Hurricane *Claudette* (RPi). With the Texas population of Brown Pelicans continuing to grow, inland wanderers are becoming a regular occurrence within 200 km of the coast. This season, one was at Meadow L., Williamson 17 Jul (TFe). In what is now becoming a regular occurrence, a Brown Pelican was at

### Mark W. Lockwood

402 East Harriet Avenue

Alpine, Texas 79830

(mark.lockwood@tpwd.state.tx.us)

McNary Res., Hudspeth for most of Jul (RH et al.). A large concentration of 200+ Neotropical Cormorants was at Richland Creek W.M.A., Freestone 4 Jul (PB). The Double-crested Cormorant colony at Palo Duro L., Hansford continues to flourish, with 39 active nests found 8 Jun (KS). A male Anhinga discovered at McNary Res. 24–26 Jun (JPa et al.) was an extraordinary find for the Trans-Pecos and a first for that region.

A juv. American Bittern was captured by refuge staff at Anahuac N.W.R., Chambers 6 Jun (MW et al.), providing the first U.T.C. breeding since 1942. Other American Bitterns were detected at Anahuac 7

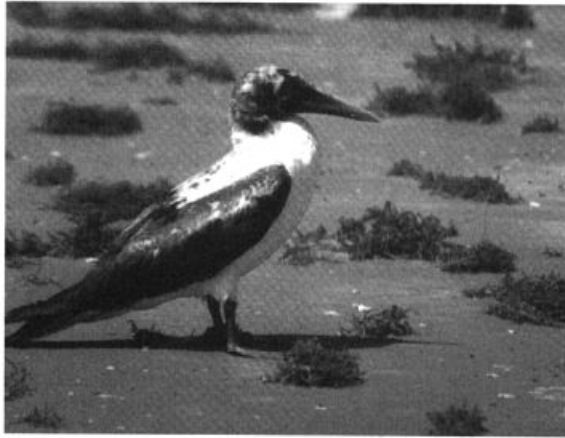
**SA** Large numbers of Magnificent Frigatebirds were pushed onto the Texas Coast when Hurricane *Claudette* made landfall 15 Jul. Unprecedented numbers of frigatebirds were counted on North Padre and Mustang Islands, Nueces and Kleberg. Forty-five were observed in one flock on the s. end of Mustang, and 100+ were counted along a 10-km stretch of that island. Only small numbers were observed at inland locations, including 30 or more 8 km n. of downtown Houston, Harris (DVe) 15 Jul, one at Choke Canyon, McMullen, and 2 at Braunig L., Bexar 16 Jul (BDo).

Jun and just w. of Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 20 Jul (DVe). Sproul was surprised to find an American Bittern at Feather L., *El Paso* 17 Jul, a first summer record for the El Paso area. Up to 3 male Great Egrets vigorously displayed before a female in Amarillo, *Potter* 29 May–18 Jun, but she declined their offers (m. ob.). There are no nesting record for this species from the Panhandle/South Plains. Snowy Egrets were unusually common in the Panhandle/South Plains, with two dozen reports of up to 9 birds, but nesting activities were not observed. A wandering ad. Little Blue Heron was in Amarillo, *Randall* 17 Jul (KS). A very good find was an imm. Tricolored Heron at White River L., *Crosby* 12 Jul (BB, MD, AF). Three active nests of Tricolored Herons were located in *Dallas* 3 Jun, providing the first nesting record in n.-cen. Texas in over 20 years. Wandering Tricolored Herons were reported from five n.-cen. Texas locations 7–24 Jul, including 7 at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* 22 Jul (MR). A nice concentration of 16 juv. Tricolored Herons was noted in e. *Williamson* 20 Jul (TFe), and in the Trans-Pecos, singles were at Doniphan Marsh, *El Paso* in late Jun (BZ et al.) and Balmorhea L. 5 Jun (RR). A white-morph Reddish Egret graced the shores of Stillhouse Hollow L. 14 Jul+ (RPi, RK, GC). White-faced Ibis lingered in large numbers on the South Plains through the season, with as many as 142 birds reported in a single day (m. ob.), but there was no evidence of nesting. This species was noted, in much smaller numbers, through the summer in n.-cen. Texas and the Trans-Pecos. A Roseate Spoonbill near Dougherty, *Floyd* 22 Jul (LSm, JST) provided a 2nd documented record for the South Plains. Also noteworthy was one at Caddo L., *Harrison/Marion* 26 Jul (RD), providing a first record for that location. The first Wood Storks noted on the U.T.C. were at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* 3 Jun (G&DL). Lockwood was shocked to see an

ad. Wood Stork flying northward over Kickapoo Caverns, *Kinney* 5 Jun, while 3 at Fort Worth, *Tarrant* 23 Jul (B&LD) provided a nice n.-cen. Texas record.

### WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

An ad. Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Balmorhea L. 3 Jun (ph. KB) provided one of



This subadult Masked Booby was found at Padre Island, Texas 18 July 2003 after the passage of Hurricane *Claudette* a few days prior. Boobies are relatively infrequently seen in association with hurricanes, certainly far less often than are frigatebirds. Photograph by Jimmy McMoran.

the few documented records for the Trans-Pecos. A female Redhead with 4 chicks at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 20 Jul (AF, RK) provided a rare breeding record for

the South Plains. A Surf Scoter at Padre Island, *Kleberg* 31 Jul (GB) was likely the first summer record for the Coastal Bend. In El Paso, a lingering male Surf Scoter was at Doniphan Marsh 21–26 Jun (JZ, MSc et al.). A Hooded Merganser made an unexpected appearance in Yellowhouse Canyon, *Lubbock* 11 Jun (JB). A family group of 7 Hooded Mergansers were found at Alazan Bayou W.M.A., *Nacogdoches* 20 Jun (JF), where this species is a rare nester.

A Swallow-tailed Kite near West Columbia, *Brazoria* 10 Jun was intriguing, as it was late for a migrant and in an area where “wild” river bottom habitat still exists nearby (R&KL). Another one at Beaumont, *Jefferson* 30 Jul was likely an early migrant (JWh). A White-tailed Kite reported from Big Bend’s Rio Grande Village Nature Trail, *Brewster* 14 Jun (DEL) was a first for the summer in the park. Following evidence in spring of a strong presence of Mississippi Kites in the Oaks & Prairies region, summer nesting was especially widespread and fruitful in this area, with unprecedented numbers of nesting pairs reported.

Unexpected in summer on the South Plains, a Sharp-shinned Hawk was in Yellowhouse Canyon, *Lubbock* 19 Jul (RK, NW). More expected, but still nice finds, were 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks in the upper



Spectacular numbers of Magnificent Frigatebirds were counted along the Coastal Bend of Texas after Hurricane *Claudette* made landfall on 15 June 2003. Groups exceeding 50 birds, such as this one along Mustang Island 15 June, were seen at several locations. Photograph by Jimmy McMoran.

elevations of the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 16-18 Jun (BFR et al.) and an ad. in Boot Canyon, *Brewster* 29 Jun (ML). A pair of Cooper's Hawks nested successfully at Bentsen, *Hidalgo*, the first in many years (TBr), while one near Greenwood, *Wise* 12 Jul (CC, MC) provided a very rare mid-summer record for n.-cen. Texas. The Common Black-Hawks at Rio Grande Village successfully fledged one young for only the 2nd time in eight years. The species was frequently encountered near Santa Elena Canyon on the w. side of Big Bend as well. More noteworthy was one near Ingram, *Kerr* 28 Jul (TGa). A road-killed Broad-winged Hawk found at Temple, *Bell* 17 Jul (RPi) was determined to be at least three years old (BC) and therefore may have been a local breeder. Broad-winged Hawks are not regular breeders in n.-cen. Texas, but this season they were noted from at least seven locations, with nesting suspected or confirmed from *Dallas*, *Tarrant*, and *Wise* (KC, MR et al.). A Short-tailed Hawk was seen intermittently at Santa Ana, *Hidalgo* between 20 Jun and 20 Jul (†BC, MaC et al.). A Zone-tailed Hawk was at Anzalduas, *Hidalgo* 16 Jul (WC), where the species is irregular in summer. An American Kestrel frequented downtown Austin 15-19 Jul (JMu, LM), where the species is normally not present in summer. Late migrating Merlins were noted in Kerrville, *Kerr* 6 Jun (JHo) and near Afton, *Dickens* 7 Jun (BB, AF, PK, BR), the latter providing a first Jun record for nw. Texas. A Peregrine Falcon apparently oversummered in Lubbock, with sightings over the Texas Tech campus 10 Jun (AF) and 19 Jul (AF, TS); another was in *Carson* 14 Jul (JR, MoS). Monitoring of the nesting Peregrine Falcons in Big Bend revealed that 13 fledglings were produced, compared to just 6 fledglings in 2002. Two Prairie Falcons seemed out of place at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 29 Jun (BPh).

### QUAIL THROUGH TERNS

Northern Bobwhites apparently had a good year on the U.T.C., as they were noted frequently at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* (RWe et al.) and in *Waller* (FC). A calling King Rail at Balmorhea L. 6 Jun (BPe) provided a very rare Trans-Pecos record. A Virginia Rail calling at Rita



American Bittern is a very rare nester in Texas, and this juvenile found at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge on 6 June 2003 provided the first evidence of breeding on the Upper Texas Coast in more than 60 years. Photograph by Matt Whitbeck.

*Blanca L.*, *Hartley* 13 Jun (KS) was a county record, and another at Anahuac N.W.R. 30 Jul (MW) was just the 3rd summer report for the U.T.C. Also unexpected was a Sora in Killeen, *Bell* 13 Jun (CS). A rare event was a Sandhill Crane that summered near Idalou, *Lubbock* (m. ob.). Astounding were 94 Snowy Plovers, including some juvs., at L. Meredith, *Moore* 21 Jun (BPi); this is by far the largest number of this species reported at one site in the Panhandle. An early migrating Snowy Plover was found at L. Lewisville, *Denton* 30 Jul (KL). Migrant Piping Plovers were noted from two n.-cen. Texas locations, a banded ad. at White Rock L., *Dallas* 16 Jul (CR) and another at L. Lewisville 18 Jul (LDu). Two Black-necked Stilts in *Washington* 12 Jun (DVo) provided a 2nd county record. Also of note were 4 at L. Bridgeport, *Wise* 24 Jul (CC, MC), where the species has an extremely local distribution.

A late migrant Upland Sandpiper was heard flying over Midland 15 Jun (AW). Rare in summer, single Whimbrels were seen at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston*, and Anahuac N.W.R., both 11 Jul (CTL). Equally notable was a Whimbrel at Benbrook L., *Tarrant* 17 Jul (MR). Summering Long-billed Curlews were noted at Yorktown, *DeWitt* 25 Jun (DM) and Austin 28 Jun-9 Jul (SY). By mid-Jul, Long-billed Curlews were congregating in

the nw. Panhandle before moving south, with 650+ noted in sw. *Moore* 23 Jul (TBu). An extraordinarily early juv. Western Sandpiper was reported from L. Jackson, *Brazoria* 29 Jul (†TC). Summer records of one or 2 White-rumped Sandpipers have been annual on the U.T.C. in recent years, so singles at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* 27 Jul and Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* 29 Jul (JSt), plus 4 at L. Jackson, *Brazoria* 20 Jul, made a high tally (TC). Five were reported from Midland 18 Jul (RMS). A surprising total of 7 Dunlin was reported 27 Jul from San Luis Pass, *Galveston* (JSt). Six Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Brazoria N.W.R. 29 Jul were early (JSt). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported three times from the South Plains: 10 near Heckville, *Lubbock* 17 Jul (AF), 4 near Lockney, *Floyd* 21 Jul (JSt), and 7 near Dougherty, *Floyd* 22 Jul (JSt). Other inland Short-billed Dowitchers included one at Meadow L., *Williamson* 19 Jul (TFe) and another at V.C.D.B., *Tarrant* 12 Jul (DLi, DDC). Unexpected in summer, a Wilson's Snipe was flushed in Temple, *Bell* 28 Jul (RPi).

Lingering Franklin's Gulls included 9 at Granger L., *Williamson* 14 Jun (TFe), 3 at L. Meredith, *Moore* 21 Jun (BPi), and one at Beaumont, *Jefferson* 26-27 Jul (CTL). A Ring-billed Gull in Midland 26 Jul provided a first summer record (*vide* RMS). Several Ring-billed Gulls at L.

Lewisville 30 Jul (KL) provided an early record for fall migrants. Caspian Tern is a casual visitor to the Trans-Pecos, so lone birds at Balmorhea L. 6 Jun (BPe) and Fort Hancock, El Paso 7 Jun (JPa) were excellent finds. A Least Tern in Midland 4 Jun (RMS) was just the 2nd local record since 1959. Two Least Terns at Greenbelt L., Donley 13 & 22 Jun (JB, BPi) were nice finds. This species was noted in several n.-cen. Texas locations 4–30 Jul, perhaps wandering birds from local breeding sites. Least Terns are rare but annual visitors in far West Texas, and this season 2 were at McNary Res. 24 Jun (JPa) and singles at Balmorhea L. 5 (RR) & 26 Jun (JGe, CE). Flocks of Black Terns were noted in several cen. and n.-cen. Texas location 16 Jul, suggesting displacement by *Claudette*. Fourteen Bridled Terns were seen on the 20 Jun pelagic trip out of South Padre I. (BMc et al.). Inland Sooty Terns associated with the passage of *Claudette* included an ad. at Calaveras L., Bexar 16–17 Jul (BDo) and an imm. in se. San Antonio 16 Jul (MiS).

#### ANIS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Grove-billed Ani made an unexpected mid-summer visit to Webberville Park, Travis 1 Jul (BFr). A pair of Burrowing Owls was noted in *Wilbarger* 12 Jun (LB), and 3 were near Haskell, *Haskell* 21 Jun (A&MG), where the species is a scarce nester. A Short-eared Owl reported s. of Lorenzo, *Crosby* 12 Jul (AF) furnished the first summer report from nw. Texas since Jun 1876. Also of note was a Short-eared Owl at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 25 Jul (JSa). Chuck-will's-widows continue to be found in the e. Panhandle in summer, and this year 2 were in *Donley* 1 Jun (BPi). The Common Pauraque found during the spring in w. *Guadalupe* remained through the period (SSc et al.).

The 2 Green Violet-ears discovered during the spring near Johnson City, *Blanco* remained through 22 Jul (m. ob.). Amazingly, 2 other Green Violet-ears frequented feeders near Garner S.P., *Uvalde* 20 Jun–5 Aug (E&NT, †m. ob.). Yet another Green Violet-ear provided a first Trans-Pecos record when it visited private feeders in the Davis Mts. 1–8 Jul (†M&ME et al., ph.). Broad-billed Hummingbirds were reported from three *Jeff Davis* locations: the male in Fort Davis from the spring remained until 3 Jun (KB), another male was at the McDonald Observatory 4 Jun (LL, MAd), and yet another ad. male was in the Davis Mts. Resort for a few days starting 6 Jun (M&ME). More unexpected was a male Broad-billed Hummingbird at Possum Kingdom L., *Palo Pinto* 25 Jun (JaH).

This was a good summer for White-eared Hummingbirds, with at least 4 at three locations in the Trans-Pecos. One was at the Davis Mts. Preserve 19 Jun (†BFr), a male was present in the vicinity of Boot Spring 30 Jun+ (†CE), where joined by a female 17 Jul+ (JV, †m. ob.), and a female visited private Davis Mts. feeders sporadically 26 Jun+ (†M&ME). Unprecedented for Jun, a female or imm. Calliope Hummingbird remained in the Amarillo, *Randall* yard 11–30 Jun (RSc).

Following the spring reports came two more reports of a possible Elegant Trogon in the Chisos Mts., *Brewster* 24 (JGe) & 26 Jun (†MO). In spite of significant search efforts by these and other persons, no one actually saw the bird. Bludau and Elwonger observed an amazing 21 Green Kingfishers along a 34-km stretch of the San Antonio R., *Karnes* 4 Jun. A Red-bellied Woodpecker near Afton, *Dickens* 7 Jun (BB, AF, PK, BR) provided a first Jun record for the South Plains; another in Yellowhouse Canyon, *Lubbock* 19 Jul (AF, TS) was a first for Jul. Wandering Ladder-backed Woodpeckers made their way to w. Galveston I. 2 Jul (JSt) and Quintana, *Brazoria* 19 Jul (DVe). A female Downy Woodpecker was reported n. of Marfa, *Presidio* 18 Jul (LSc, JK), providing a very unexpected summer record. Also out of place was a Hairy Woodpecker at the Lyndon B. Johnson National Grasslands, *Wise* 15 Jun (CC, MC).

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH JAYS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher near Texline, *Dallam* 14 Jun (KS) was the latest Panhandle record by four days; interestingly, another individual was noted at Fort Hood the same day (RK, RPi). A single Olive-sided Flycatcher on the Lost Mine Trail, *Brewster* 30 Jul (KO) was likely an early migrant. Although notoriously late migrants, several Western Wood-Pewees lingering in the Panhandle into mid-Jun were noteworthy: one in Amarillo, *Randall* 11 Jun (RSc), 2 near Texline, *Dallam* 14 Jun (KS), and 2 at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson* 21 Jun (BPi)—the latter the latest on record. Who knows in which direction an Eastern Wood-Pewee was headed when it appeared on w. Galveston I. 30 Jun–1 Jul (JSt)? Acadian Flycatchers were in two *Van Zandt* locations 7–8 Jun (DDC), where the species is suspected of nesting? Up to 11 Dusky Flycatcher territories were counted in the upper elevations of the Davis Mts. 15–18 Jun (BFr et al.). A territorial male Gray Flycatcher was discovered in the upper elevations of the Guadalupe Mts., *Culberson* 6–11 Jun (KB); this species is not known to breed in Texas away from the Davis Mts. The

returning Buff-breasted Flycatchers reported in the spring from the Davis Mts. successfully fledged 4 young (†KB et al.). An apparent competing male was observed on 14 Jun (BF, PH, EC).

Black Phoebes wandered e. to the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* 25–26 Jul (*vide* BMC) and New Braunfels 19 Jul (CH). A Say's Phoebe feeding nestlings in *Lipscomb* 8 Jun (KS) afforded a new county record and the northeasternmost confirmed nesting in the Panhandle. Nesting pairs of Vermilion Flycatchers were noted along the e. edge of the breeding range at Fort Hood, *Coryell* 17 May–2 Jun (RK et al.) and along the Lampasas R., *Bell* 8 Jun (RK, JGo). The Dusky-capped Flycatchers found in Big Bend during the spring successfully raised 2 young and were last seen 20 Jul (MF, m. ob.). Another pair of Dusky-capped was discovered 18 Jun on the Davis Mts. Preserve (†PH, PR) and seen with 2 fledglings 12 Jul (†ML, PS). These reports provide only the 3rd and 4th nesting records for the state. Ash-throated Flycatchers found at w. Galveston I. 12 Jul (JSt) and Port Bolivar, both *Galveston* 19 Jul (SM) provided first Jul records for the U.T.C. Five Great Crested Flycatchers in Palo Duro Canyon S.P. 7 Jul (KS), including 3 in one group, suggested probable nesting. A Brown-crested Flycatcher was well n. of normal range in *McCulloch* 19 Jul (JHu).

A Great Kiskadee visited Fort Hood, *Coryell* 2 Jun (WB, SSu), providing a 2nd county record. A silent Couch's/Tropical Kingbird found at Stillhouse Hollow L. 13 Jul (RPi, GC) was a first for Bell. The female Rose-throated Becard at Santa Ana was last seen 29 Jun (TFu). A singing Yellow-throated Vireo discovered during the Willis Point B.B.S., *Van Zandt* 8 Jun (DDC) was in an area where the species has been suspected of nesting. The Hut-ton's Vireos that have been present at Friedrich Park, Bexar for the past year successfully fledged at least one young, providing one of the very few breeding records for the Hill Country (D&LE). Two singing Warbling Vireos in *Lubbock* 8 Jun, one at L. Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* 26 Jul (AF), and one in *McMullen* 4 Jul (WS) were good finds. A Yellow-green Vireo was seen sporadically at Santa Ana N.W.R. 9 Jun+ (†EC et al.). The small family group of Brown Jays at Chapeño, *Starr* continued to number 4–5 individuals and are the only ones known in Texas. Three to 5 Clark's Nutcrackers continued to linger in the upper elevations of the Davis Mts. until 19 Jun (†KB et al.).

#### SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A pair of Tree Swallows was observed at

the Gene Howe W.M.A., *Hemphill* 9 Jun (KS), and although nesting could not be confirmed this year, this species has nested here irregularly since 1997. Tree Swallows were confirmed nesting at Granger L., *Williamson* 14 Jun (TFe), where at least 6 ads. and 16 juvs. were present. A Violet-green Swallow made an unexpected appearance near Floydada, *Floyd* 27 Jul (BB, AF). A Carolina Chickadee wandered into Amarillo, *Potter* 9–10 Jul (KS), providing the first record for the city since 1996. Even more unexpected was a Black-crested Titmouse in Amarillo, *Randall* 22 Jul (BPi). On 16 Jul, Bryan and Poteet located a juv. Red-breasted Nuthatch in the upper elevations of the Guadalupe Mts., *Culberson*, the site of the previous state breeding record. A singing House Wren was certainly unexpected in Midland 12 Jun (RMS). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in Lubbock on a late date of 5 Jun (TGi). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was discovered in the Davis Mts. Preserve 14 Jun+ (BF, PH, EC); the species is not known to breed in that range.

A very late departing Townsend's Solitaire was sighted in Big Bend's Chisos Basin 2 Jun (MAd, LL). A hatch-year Hermit Thrush was a nice find in the

Chisos Mts. 29 Jul (KO), as this species has not been documented for the park in the summer. Clay-colored Robin now appears to be quite established as a regular and visible part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley avifauna, with pairs reported from multiple locations in *Starr* and *Hidalgo*. More unexpected was a Clay-colored Robin in Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* 6 Jun+ (TM), a first for the U.T.C. An intriguing discovery was a Gray Catbird along the Canadian R. in *Hemphill* 30 Jun–5 Jul (TE); there is only one breeding record for this species in the Panhandle. Up to 4 singing Gray Catbirds in two Houston, *Harris* locations 12–21 Jun (D&SM, JHe) were likely breeding. Catbirds were also noted in coastal migrant traps along the U.T.C. between 7 Jun and 26 Jul, but these were probably wandering individuals rather than territorial birds. A Brown Thrasher in Brenham, *Washington* 21–22 Jul (BeB, DVo) was the first summer record since 1995 in an area where the species formerly bred. Cedar Waxwings lingered well into the summer, with the most noteworthy sightings being of 2 at Lost Maples, *Bandera* 22 Jun (TR) and a flock of 30 in Fort Worth, *Tarrant* 26 Jun (DDC).

A very late migrant Tennessee Warbler

was noted on Fort Hood, *Coryell* 17 Jun (DCi). Of great interest was a singing Yellow Warbler along the Canadian R. in *Hemphill* 30 Jun–5 Jul (TE); there are no recent breeding records for Texas. Late Yellow Warblers included 2 at Quintana, *Brazoria* 7 Jun (DVe); another detected on w. Galveston I. 30 Jun could have been either early or late (JSt). Other interesting Yellow Warbler records included an ad. male in Midland 12–13 Jun (D&JM) and a singing male in *Bexar* 18 Jun (BDo). A lingering Magnolia Warbler was in Richardson, *Dallas* 18 Jun (RC). Black-throated Green Warblers are found during the summer almost annually; this year, singles were near Uteley, *Bastrop* (BFR) and at High I., *Galveston* 7 Jun (DVe). More unexpected was a Black-throated Green Warbler in *Bandera* 29 Jun (TGa). A hatch-year male Golden-cheeked Warbler was photographed in the Chisos Mts. 29 Jun (†ML), providing the first fully-documented record for the Trans-Pecos. A possible Golden-cheeked Warbler was reported at the Woodlands, *Harris* 27 Jul (NA). Blackburnian Warbler is a good find in the Trans-Pecos at any time, but one in Big Bend's Pine Canyon 2 Jun (BPe) was a remarkable find.



A pair of Buff-breasted Flycatchers returned for the fifth consecutive year to the central Davis Mountains of Texas. The same territory was occupied as in previous years and for the fourth time successfully fledged young. These four nestlings were photographed on 26 June 2003, just prior to leaving the nest. Photograph by Kelly B. Bryan.



A new record—early fall (or very late spring?) Black-and-white Warbler was recorded at High I., *Galveston* 28 Jun (DVe). Also unexpected was a Black-and-white Warbler in the Chisos Mts. near Boot Spring 13 Jul (DO, COK). An imm. male American Redstart bathing in an El Paso backyard pond 26 Jun (BZ) was a surprise visitor on a most unusual date. A very late singing Northern Waterthrush was at Buffalo Springs L., *Lubbock* 22 Jun (AF). As has been in case in recent summers, multiple territorial male MacGillivray's Warblers were present on the Davis Mts. Preserve 15–18 Jun (BFr et al.). Suggesting breeding, 2 Common Yellowthroats were noted on the Wills Point B.B.S., *Van Zandt* 8 Jun (DDC). Lost Hooded Warblers were found in Big Bend's Pine Canyon 2 Jun (DB) and near Afton, *Dickens* 7 Jun (AF). A migrant Hooded Warbler at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 26 Jul (DVe) was very early. A female Red-faced Warbler was discovered in the Guadalupe Mts. 10 Jun (†, ph. KB), providing only the 2nd summer record for the species in Texas. At least two, and possibly three, pairs of Painted Redstarts were present throughout the period at Boot Spring, with at least one pair successfully raising young (m. ob.). Always notable in the Davis Mts., a Painted Redstart was discovered in the Davis Mts. Preserve 27 Jun (JGe, CE et al.), and 2 were at the same location 9 Jul+ (KB), with another in a separate location 20 Jul (ND et al.).

### TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A late Summer Tanager was in Amarillo, *Randall* 2 Jun (RSc), while a female Summer Tanager observed carrying food near Afton, *Dickens* 7 Jun (m. ob.) offered the first evidence of probable breeding for the South Plains. A molting male Scarlet Tanager at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 22 Jun (KSz) represents the latest ever for the U.T.C. A singing male Eastern Towhee near Kurth L., *Angelina* 17 & 26 Jun (GG) added more evidence that this species may breed in East Texas. Two Canyon Towhees at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson* 21 Jun (BPi) had wandered out of their normal habitat in the canyonlands. A Botteri's Sparrow was found near Kaufer-Hubert Park, *Kleberg* 6 Jun (LJ) near the poorly-known n. limits of this species' range. A Grasshopper Sparrow singing near Barker Res., *Harris* 6 Jun (HE) follows up the first suggestion of recent breeding this spring on the Katy Prairie. Unexpected was a singing Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Amarillo, *Randall* 1–7 Jun (RSc). Harwerth was shocked to find a Lincoln's Sparrow

inside a Wal-Mart in San Antonio 19 Jun. Two lingering White-crowned Sparrows were at Balmorhea L. 5 Jun (RR).

Details of a possible Yellow Grosbeak reported from Big Bend's Rio Grande Village 14 Jun (DEL) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C.; there are several other undocumented reports of this species from the Park, but the state lacks a firm record. The territorial male Lazuli Bunting from the spring at Fort Hood was still present 1 Jul (SSu) and appeared to still be accompanying a female Indigo Bunting. Indigo Buntings were found to be breeding in two more counties on the South Plains this season: a female with 3 fledglings was at L. Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* 26 Jul (AF, AH), and a female with 4 fledglings was noted at Roaring Springs, *Motley* 27 Jul (BB, AF). A Varied Bunting was found at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr* 8 Jun (JA), where they are very low-density breeders. Reid made an unexpected discovery of a male Yellow-headed Blackbird at V.C.D.B., *Tarrant* 10 Jul. As in recent years, two apparent pairs of Brewer's Blackbirds were present at the McDonald Observatory, *Jeff Davis* throughout the season (MAd). Bronzed Cowbird is now becoming quite regular in the Houston area, with reports from three sites this season. A Hooded Oriole wandered up the coast to *Calhoun* 25 Jul (BFr). Two flocks of up to 14 Red Crossbills each were in the higher elevations of the Davis Mts. 19 Jun (KB, BFr). A Lesser Goldfinch was unexpectedly far w., for the Panhandle, near the Boys Ranch, *Oldham* 2 Jun (KS).

**Undocumented reports:** The following Texas Bird Records Review species was reported without documentation: Greater Pewee in El Paso 10 Jun.

**Addendum:** Reports of Brown Pelicans in the Panhandle from the spring were received late. Two were observed at Greenbelt L., *Donley* 24 May (IT), with one still present 31 May (HP), providing a first county record and the 8th for the Panhandle.

**Cited observers** (subregional editors in bold-face): **Mark Adams** (MAd) (Trans-Pecos: HC 75, Box 1337-B, Ft. Davis, TX 79734-5016. email: mta@astro.as.utexas.edu), **Nanette Armstrong**, **John Arvin**, **Wes Bailey**, **Lynn Barber**, **Peter Barnes**, **Bernie Bennett** (BeB), **Brandon Best** (BB), **Gene Blacklock**, **Colin Bludau**, **David Bradford**, **John Brunjes**, **Tim Brush** (TBr), **Kelly Bryan**, **Tamie Bulow** (TBu), **Eric Carpenter**, **Will Carter**, **Ron Chenault**, **David Cimprich** (DCi), **Bill Clark**, **Fred Collins**, **Tom**

**Collins**, **Mark Conway** (MaC), **Mel Cooksey** (MC) (South Texas: 16 Townhouse Lane, Corpus Christi, TX 78412. email: ssi@stx.rr.com), **Kelly Cotten** (North-central Texas: 8626 Angora Street, Dallas, TX 75218. email: Schmotten@aol.com), **Grant Critchfield**, **D.D. Currie** (DDC), **Claire Curry**, **Mary Curry** (MC), **Bill & Linda Daniel**, **Roy Darville**, **Bob Doe** (BDo), **Natasha Domina**, **Maureen Donohue**, **Lawrence Duhon** (LDu), **Marc and Maryann Eastman**, **Carol Edwards**, **David Elkowitz** (DEL), **Harry Elliott**, **Mark Elwonger**, **Dodge & Lorna Engelman**, **Ted Eubanks**, **Jesse Fagan**, **Tim Fennell** (TFE), **Mark Flippo**, **Anthony Floyd**, **Brush Freeman** (BFr), **Bert Frenz** (BeF) (East Texas: 221 Rainbow Dr., PMB 12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021. email: bert2@bafrenz.com), **Terry Fuller** (TFu), **Tony Gallucci** (TGa), **John Gee** (JGe), **Angelina & Mike Gephardt**, **Tom Gill** (TGi), **John Gower** (JGo), **Georgette Guernsey**, **Curt Harwerth**, **Jose Hernandez** (JHe), **Aveline Hewetson**, **Petra Hockey**, **John Hoogerheide** (JHo), **Rich Hoyer**, **Jim Hughes** (JHu), **Janie Hurley** (JaH), **Larry Jordon**, **John Kalb**, **Philip Kite**, **Rich Kostecke**, **Cin-Ty Lee** (CTL), **Dell Little** (DLi), **Gerald & Dee Little**, **Keith Lockhart**, **Mark Lockwood**, **Laura Long**, **Robert & Kay Lookingbill**, **Debbie & Scott MacSorley**, **Brad McKinney** (BMc), **Lisa Meacham**, **Stennie Meadours**, **Don and Joann Merritt**, **Tom Morris**, **Jeff Mundy**, **Derek Muschalek**, **Dale Ohl**, **Carolyn Ohl-Kolb**, **Karl Overman**, **Mike Overton**, **Jim Paton** (JPa), **Brandon Percival** (BPc), **Bill Phelan** (BPh), **Heidi Phelps**, **Ellen Pickett**, **Barrett Pierce** (BPi), **Randy Pinkston** (RPi), **David Poteet**, **Bob Rasa**, **Ross Rasmussen**, **Jim Ray**, **Martin Reid**, **Tim Rodenkirk**, **Chris Runk**, **Jennifer Sanchez** (JSa), **Susan Schaezler** (SSc), **Monty Schoenhals** (MoS), **Larry Schwab** (LSc), **Marcy Scott** (MSc), **Rosemary Scott** (RSc), **Mike Scully** (MiS), **Willie Sekula** (Central Texas: 7063 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113-2627. email: wsekula@the-cia.net), **Ken Seyfert** (KS) (Northwest: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), **Loren Smith** (LSm), **Tom SoRelle**, **John Sproul** (JSp), **Jim Stevenson** (JSt), **Rose Marie Stortz** (RMS), **Cristina Summers**, **Scott Summers** (SSu), **Paul; Sunby**, **Ken Sztraky** (KSz), **Irvin Thomas**, **Eddy & Nancy Thornton**, **Jo-Szu Tsai** (JST), **J. P. Valentine**, **Don Verser** (DVe), **Darrell Vollert** (DVo), **Nilesh Waghdhare**, **Ron Weeks** (RWe) (UTC: 110 Indian Warrior, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. email: empidonax@sbcglobal.net), **Matt Whitbeck**, **John Whittle** (JWh), **Allen Wimple**, **Scott Young**, **Jimmy Zabriskie**, **Barry Zimmer**. ☉