

Texas

pearance of one in Lubbock. Other highlights included a first-ever summer Townsend's Solitaire and the first documented nesting of Gray-crowned Yellowthroat since 1894.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

A Pacific Loon was noted until 1 Jun at Of-fat's Bayou, *Galveston* (MLi), a place well known for lingering loons. A Common Loon found at L. Tanglewood, *Randall* 23 Jul (JH, m.ob.) was just the 3rd summer record for the Panhandle. Eared Grebe numbers in the nw. portion of the state were well above normal, with 50+ at Buffalo L., *Randall* 5 Jun (BP) and 36, including 24 nestlings, there 18 Jun (KS). There were 14 ad. Eared Grebes and an unknown number of nestlings through the period at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* (AH, BB, MDL). A Western Grebe at Buffalo L., *Randall* 1 Jun (LN, JSm) represented a rare summer record for the Panhandle. The World Birding Center (W.B.C.) pelagic trips off of South Padre I., *Cameron* 17 Jun and 29 Jul tallied Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters on both trips. After the passage of Hurricane *Emily* 21 Jul, one of each of these shearwaters was found dead on *Cameron* beaches (DB), and a single Audubon's was found alive along Padre Island N.S., *Kenedy* (ph. NM, ph. EO). McIntyre observed 300+ Audubon's Shearwaters and 5 Cory's Shearwaters during a 60-hour trip off Corpus Christi 12-14 Jul. Single Leach's Storm-Petrels along with the more expected Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were found on each of the W.B.C. pelagic trips (†MO, †LB et al.). A **Red-billed Tropicbird** seen off South Padre I., *Cameron* 14 Jun-19 Jul (ph. BD) was also observed during the 17 Jun W.B.C. pelagic trip (†BMc, †EC et al.). A Brown Pelican at L. Livingston, *San Jacinto* on 9 Jul (GR) provided a rare Pineywoods record. A juv. Brown Pelican noted in the El Paso area in Jul may have been part of a large invasion of this species into Arizona; the possibility of a Gulf of California origin seems strong in this case (JPa, DA). Meanwhile 1306 pairs of Brown Pelicans at North Deer I., *Galveston* (WB et al.) made an impressive count. Neotropical Cormorants continue to expand, as evidenced by several hundred at an island rookery at Cedar Creek Res., *Henderson* 29 Jun (BG, DH) and a nesting pair in *Denton* 16 Jun, where breeding has not previously been reported (LD, DH). Six Double-crested Cormorant nests at Buffalo L., *Randall* (KS) and a count of 12 at Lubbock 15 Jul (AH) indicate the species is increasing its summer presence in the Panhandle and South Plains. Another seen 15 Jul (TR, CR) at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone* was unexpected.

Least Bitterns were noted several times at San Solomon Cienega, Balmorhea S.P., *Reeves*, strongly suggesting nesting there (*vide* TJ). A Tricolored Heron was observed



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The summer was hot and dry in most areas of the state. Rainfall in the northwestern part of the state was very spotty, with many areas receiving very little rain. As a result, there was little habitat for waterbirds, and shorebirds had a dismal showing. In the Trans-Pecos, monsoonal moisture began in late July, bringing some relief to the dry conditions in the Chisos and Davis Mountains, but El Paso would have to wait until August for the summer rains to begin. Farther east, rainfall was below average with terms like "bone dry" used by some. Houston's Intercontinental Airport registered 0.2 cm of rainfall in June, making for the driest June on record. The only rains seen in the Lower Rio Grande Valley were associated with Hurricane *Emily* in late July.

As always, there were some eye-opening discoveries made during the season. One of the most unexpected was the invasion of White-eared Hummingbirds in Big Bend and the Davis Mountains. Even with these birds present, few would have predicted the ap-

17 Jul+ at Hagerman, Grayson, where the species is a rare summer visitor (BG). At least three extralimital Tricolored Herons nests were found in a heronry in w. San Antonio, *Bexar* 23 Jun (JK). A juv. Reddish Egret was at Imperial Res., *Pecos* 24 Jul (EC). White Ibis were especially numerous in n.-cen. Texas, with over 40 photographed at L. Tawakoni, *Hunt* 3 Jul (RB). A Roseate Spoonbill found at the Palo Duro Club, *Randall* 23 Jul (DSm, CBo, JH, ph. BiM) was just the 5th for the Panhandle; 2 imms. near L. Travis in Smithwick, *Burnet* 11 Jul were also unexpected (BH). An impressive total of 59 Wood Storks was seen flying from a pond near Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 15 Jun (JKe). The count of up to 3 Black Vultures in *Clay* 15-16 Jun suggests the species is expanding its summer range westward (DMc).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Most unexpected was a Snow Goose at Cactus Playa, *Moore* 16 Jul (BP). Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in *Kaufman* 29 Jun (BG, DH) and one in *Denton* 27 Jun (LD) were distant from known breeding locations of this still scarce and localized n.-cen. Texas resident. One to 3 Wood Ducks at McNary Res. 11-19 Jun (JPa) represented just the 2nd summer record for *Hudspeth*. Nine Mottled Ducks were seen at Sore Finger W.M.A., Granger L., *Williamson* 18 Jul (TFe). A pair of Green-winged Teal was at Hagerman, *Grayson* 17 Jun+ (RR). A pair of Redheads was present through 22 Jun in *Midland*, but breeding could not be confirmed. A lingering male Ring-necked Duck was found at Choke Canyon S.P., *McMullen* 12 Jun (DMu, WS).

Although regular in small numbers along the coast, an Osprey at Ray Hubbard Res., *Dallas* 11 Jun (GCo, BG, DH) represented one of only a handful of summer records from that area. Pairs of Mississippi Kites were monitored near Uteley, and on 17 Jul, Freeman at last confirmed just the 2nd known nesting site for *Bastrop*. In nearby *Williamson*, 2 ad. Mississippi Kites were seen 20 Jul, suggesting nesting in an area where the species has been seen in previous summers (TFe). A Swallow-tailed Kite near Sweeney, *Brazoria* 17 Jun (WB) was either a wanderer or a bird from an unknown local breeding population, while others seen 16 Jul over L. Jackson, *Brazoria* (ZL) and Cove, *Chambers* 19 Jul (PF) were most likely very early migrants. Cooper's Hawks continue to do well in n.-cen. Texas but are not known to breed in the Central Brazos Valley or the U.T.C. Therefore, an imm. in *Brazos* 7-17 Jun (ER), one near Waller, *Waller* 17 Jun (FC), and singles at two Houston, *Harris* locations in Jun (KH) were noteworthy. A Cooper's Hawk near Afton, *Dickens* 4 Jul (BB) was notable, as they are only suspected of breeding on the South Plains, while an-

other near Midland 26 Jul (BL) marked a first summer record for the area. More exciting was a Sharp-shinned Hawk carrying food 28 Jun near Cedar Creek Res., *Kaufman* (BG, DH), where the species is not known to nest. A Harris's Hawk seen n. of Fort Stockton, *Pecos* 29 Jul (DO, COJ) was away from typical locations for the species. As cavity nesters, American Kestrels may be finding more and more suitable nesting sites in ur-



For the second year in a row, a Red-billed Tropicbird delighted birds on the pelagic trip 17 June 2005 (here) off South Padre Island, Texas pelagic trip. The bird was monitored from 14 June-19 July by the boat's captain, making this the longest staying Red-billed of the eight recorded in the state. Photograph by Brian Gibbons.

ban areas; several sightings came from *Dallas* over the summer (m.ob.). More unusual was a juv. seen 4 Jul near Hitchcock, *Galveston*, representing only the 2nd known summer record for the U.T.C. (JA). Single Prairie Falcons at the Martinez Ranch, *Donley* 9 Jul (BP) and near Lubbock, *Lubbock* 25 Jul (DSt) were both surprising sightings, as they are rare breeders in nw. Texas.

QUAIL THROUGH TERNS

Following up on the exciting spring reports, 2 male *Montezuma* Quail were located in the same area of the sw. rim of the Chisos Mts., *Brewster* 20 Jun (BW). Northern Bobwhites were reported as doing well throughout their Texas range, but there was some concern that the very dry early summer may have adversely affected breeding. Three at Dryden, *Terrell* 30 Jun (ML) were at the very w. edge of the species' range. A Black Rail heard calling at the South Padre Island Convention Center, *Cameron* Jul 3 (BMc) was the first there in several years. An American Golden-Plover was at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 19 Jun (MW), while 2 at Muleshoe, *Bailey* 30 Jul (AH, BB) furnished just the 3rd summer record for nw. Texas. A Snowy Plover seen in

suitable habitat at Millers Creek Res., *Baylor* 4 Jun (BG) was notable, as the last nesting records from the area were in the 1920s. Also interesting were 20 Snowy Plovers, including several juvs., near the Brazos R. mouth, *Brazoria*, where they nested in 2001 (CTL). A Mountain Plover in *Donley* on 9 Jul provided the first Jul record for the Panhandle (BP). A Solitary Sandpiper at Sea Center Texas, *Brazoria* 3 Jul (TC) tied the

U.T.C. early record. A Willet at Belton L., *Bell* 1 Jun (GCr, RPi) was either very early or very late. Late Hudsonian Godwits included one at Fort Hood, *Coryell* 1 Jun (RKO, GE) and 4 at Hagerman, *Grayson* 5 Jun (RR). A Marbled Godwit in *Randall* 1 Jul (KS) represented the earliest fall record ever for the Panhandle. Early Upland Sandpipers included singles in *Wilbarger* 1 Jul (CC) and Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 10 Jul (BFR). A group of 1700 Long-billed Curlews tallied in *Deaf Smith* 10 Jul (JST) was a phenomenal number for summer. Four Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Hagerman, *Grayson* 5 Jun (RR), setting a new late date for the Region. Six basic-plumaged Red Knots at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 2 Jul and 2 at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* 17 Jul (CTL) were likely summering birds. A White-rumped Sandpiper at Cactus Playa, *Moore* (BP) was found 16 Jul, an anomalous date. A lingering group of 4 Dunlins was at Brazoria N.W.R. 5 Jun, while more unexpected were single alternate-plumaged birds there 16 Jul and at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 23 Jul (CTL). Four Stilt Sandpipers at Brazoria N.W.R. 5 Jun (CTL) were late. Short-billed Dowitchers were conspicuous through Jul at Hagerman, *Grayson*

(RR), including a record-high count of 25 there 27 Jul (BG). Two Long-billed Dowitchers at Brazoria N.W.R. 5 Jun (CTL) were late. A female Red-necked Phalarope photographed at Brazoria N.W.R. 16-17 Jul (CTL) provided the first summer record for the U.T.C. Two were also at Muleshoe, Bai-

Pecos 4 Jul (GCo, BG) were not observed nesting; the species was not reported from the El Paso area for the first time in a number of years. Off S. Padre I., a Sooty and 5 Bridled Terns were seen 17 Jun, while a Bridled and 5 Sooties were seen 29 Jul (BMc, m.ob.). McIntyre reported 200+ Sooty Terns

vided a very late record for the Trans-Pecos. An ad. and 4 juv. Burrowing Owls in *Wilbarger* 11 Jul provided a new nesting location for n.-cen. Texas (CC). Two Lesser Nighthawks in Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 31 Jul were likely early fall migrants (BFR). Green Violet-ears were documented in *Comal* 2-4 Jun (RN, †LB et al.) and near Hunt, *Kerr* 14-16 Jun (†CH). A juv. Green-breasted Mango was at San Benito, *Cameron* 18-20 Jun (ph., †TFu).

Wayward Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were present in Houston, *Harris* through mid-Jun (DG) and in s. *Bexar* 26 Jun (TS). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in *Randall* 17 Jul (BP) was rare for the Panhandle. A male Allen's Hummingbird appeared for the 3rd consecutive summer in the Davis Mts. 22 Jul+ (M&ME). Extralimital Ringed Kingfishers were reported from the San Saba R., *McCulloch* 18 Jun (JHu) and in nearby *San Saba* 10 Jul (AH). The Green Kingfisher reported from L. Conroe, *Montgomery* in the spring was seen again 3 Jun (KeB, JCo). A Green Kingfisher on Salado Creek, *Bell* 17 Jul (RPi) furnished only the 6th county record. Red-headed Woodpeckers in *Dallam* 12 Jun (BP) and *Lubbock* 1 Jul (BRa) were w. of that species' expected range. Another Red-headed in rural *Midland* 24 Jun was a rare find for the summer (DK, D&JM). Nesting pairs of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in *Floyd* 18 Jun (AH, AvH) and Downy Woodpeckers in *Dickens* 25 Jun (BB, AH, m.ob.)

provided first confirmed breeding records for the South Plains. Ladder-backed Woodpeckers nested again at Arbor Hills Park, *Denton* (PP) at the e. edge of their range. A Ladder-backed in coastal *Brazoria* 24-29 Jun was likely a post-breeding wanderer (DVe et al.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH RAVENS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in *Nueces* 18 Jun was a very late spring migrant (LJ). A singing Greater Pewee was discovered 13 Jun in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis*, where the species nested in 2002 (†KBr, †EC, ph., †GL, ph., †ML, †RPi). An Eastern Wood-Pewee near Robertson, *Crosby* 3 Jul (ML) was possibly nesting at this unlikely High Plains location. Two Acadian Flycatchers singing in *Navarro* 29 Jun (BG, DH) were probable nesters, which would be a first for that county. A Willow Flycatcher in *Randall* 27 Jul (KS) was a record-early fall migrant for the Region. A Least Flycatcher 1 Jun at the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary, *Brazoria* tied the U.T.C. late date (TC). A Dusky Flycatcher at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 30 Jul (BB, AH) provided a



This Brown Noddy was fairly easily observed off the jetty at South Padre Island, Texas 20-26 (here 21) June 2005. All of the other records of this species in Texas have been one-day wonders, hurricane waifs, or seen at sea. Photograph by Brad McKinney.

ley 30 Jul (AH, BB), representing the 3rd Jul record for the South Plains.

Casual in summer, 2 Franklin's Gulls were at Imperial Res., *Pecos* 4 Jul (GCo, BG). Another was at Mitchell L., *Bexar* 6 Jul (MR). A Ring-billed Gull in *Moore* 16 Jul (BP) was likely an early migrant. Two California Gulls at Muleshoe NWR, *Bailey* 26 Jun-19 Jul (†AH, AvH et al.) constituted a 3rd record for the South Plains. A juv. Herring Gull in *Marion* 28 Jul (TFe) was noteworthy for the Pineywoods. Two Caspian Terns at Twin Buttes Res., *Tom Green* 19 Jun (TM, AK) represented a first Concho Valley record. Also unexpected were 2 Common Terns at Imperial Res., *Pecos* 4 Jul (GCo, BG). Least Terns were widely reported. Up to 23 ads. and 6 juvs. were observed throughout the season at L. Lewisville, *Denton* (LD, DH, KL), where nesting was suspected but not confirmed. Nesting by up to eight pairs at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* ultimately failed due to flooding (RR); a few pairs nested successfully again at Southside W.T.P., *Dallas*. Three at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 9 Jun (BG, DH), up to 2 in *Marion* 28-29 Jul (TFe), one at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 3 Jun (BG), and 4 at Imperial Res.

and 50+ Bridled Terns off Corpus Christi 12-14 Jul. A Brown Noddy at South Padre I. and across the channel at Boca Chica, *Cameron* 20-26 Jun (ph. ScC, m.ob.) delighted birders, while Hurricane *Emily* brought another to Padre Island N.S., *Kenedy* 21 Jul (ph. NM, ph. EO).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

White-winged Doves continued their expansion into East Texas, where they arrived in Tyler, *Smith* 23 Jun (RKi). A report of Common Ground-Dove from *Jack* 24 Jul constitutes one of very few for n.-cen. Texas (*vide* SF). A White-tipped Dove in *Uvalde* 7 Jun-26 Jul (ph. MH) provided only the 5th record for the Hill Country. A late Black-billed Cuckoo was heard in *Bastrop* 3 Jun (BFR). Always a good find in Big Bend, a Groove-billed Ani was at Cottonwood Campground 8 Jun (PI). Groove-billed Anis nested at Mitchell L., with up to 8 present (HR). A Short-eared Owl in *Hartley* 6 Jun (KS) provided the first summer record for the Panhandle since 1965. Two road-killed Short-eared Owls picked up in w. *Jeff Davis* 26 May (JPO, *LSMNS) pro-

2nd Jul record for the South Plains. The pair of Buff-breasted Flycatchers in the Davis Mountains Preserve fledged 3 young in Jun, and they were feeding a second brood at a new nest 24 Jul (EC, ML, JPa, WS). What was likely a different bird was reported several times in the same canyon in Jun (ML) and again 23 Jul (BRo). A 2nd pair was confirmed at a separate location within the Davis Mountains Preserve 12 Jun, after six years of looking (ph., †ML). A Black Phoebe at Mitchell L., *Bexar* 17 Jul was notable (CM). A pair of Eastern Phoebes nested successfully in Kurten, *Brazos* (SW), but the species was scarce elsewhere in the cen. *Brazos Valley* (DVo). Five Vermilion Flycatchers reported from *Jack* 24 Jul were noteworthy for the n.-cen. region (DDC, DL). Three pairs of Dusky-capped Flycatchers were located 14 Jun in the Davis Mountains Preserve (†KBr, †EC, †ML, †RPi). A return trip 9 Jul revealed that two pairs had successfully fledged young, representing the 2nd and 3rd nesting records for the range (ME, JKa, ML). The species was not reported from the Chisos Mts. for the first time in four years. A family of Great Crested Flycatchers at Palo Duro Canyon 23 Jun (KS) was w. of the usual breeding range in the Panhandle; breeding was also documented in *Dickens* 25 Jun (AH, BB). A Couch's Kingbird present at Temple Lake Park, *Bell* since 5 May was still present 1 Jun (GCr). Breeding Western Kingbirds continued near *Katy*, *Harris* (KY), while a pair at *Seabrook*, *Harris* represented a new U.T.C. breeding location (HT). Three Eastern Kingbirds at *Boy's Ranch*, *Oldham* 12 Jun (BP) were w. of their usual Panhandle range.

A singing Bell's Vireo near *Afton*, *Dickens* 25 Jun was notable for the South Plains (AH). Singing Yellow-throated Vireos were found 11 Jun+ in *Van Zandt* (m.ob.) and 2 Jul in *Brazos* (DVo), where the species is a rare summer resident. A Red-eyed Vireo in *High Island*, *Galveston* 5 Jun was late (DVe). A territorial pair of Hutton's Vireos was found 18 Jun in s. *Real* (JA). Yellow-green Vireos again successfully nested at *Sabal Palm Grove*, *Cameron* (JiP, m.ob.). A territorial Yellow-green Vireo, and possibly its mate, were observed w. of *Pearsall*, *Frio* 4 Jun (SCo, ph. MR, ph. WS). Several nesting pairs of Tamaulipas Crows were reported throughout the season near the Brownsville airport, *Cameron*—apparently the first productive season in several years for that species in the United States (m.ob.). Five Common Ravens were observed 12 Jun near a suspected nest in *Dallam* (BP), where the species is not known to breed.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A male Purple Martin in *Sanderson*, *Terrell*

30 Jun (ML) was presumably an early fall migrant. Tree Swallows nested at *Willis Creek Park*, *Granger L.* again this summer (TFe). New nesting sites included *L. Lavon*, *Collin* 16 Jun (MW) and *L. Tawakoni*, *Hunt/Rains* (m.ob.). Cave Swallows continued their northward expansion, with new nesting sites in *Rains* (RB, MW), *Hunt* 18 Jun (MW), *Jack* 24 Jul (DDC, DL), *Kent* 8 Jul (AH, AvH), and near *Brownfield*, *Terry* 24 Jul (BB). A Black-crested Titmouse at *Buffalo L.*, *Randall* 9 Jun (KS) was a first summer record for the refuge; single Bushitts there 28 Jun (KS) and 19 Jul (KS) were likewise unexpected visitors to the refuge. Pairs of White-breasted Nuthatches were reported at *McKinney Falls S.P.*, *Travis* 12 Jun (DaS), in *Grimes* 14 Jun (DVo), in both *Kurten*, *Brazos* (SW) and *Temple*, *Bell* (GCr, RPi) throughout the period, and near *Granger*, *Williamson* 31 Jul (TFe, BS), making for one of the best years for this species in cen. Texas. A rare find in n.-cen. Texas, 3 Brown-headed Nuthatches were near *Edom*, *Van Zandt* 28 Jun (BG, DH). A Brown Creeper at *Buffalo L.* 1 Jun (LN, JS) constituted the first summer report for the Panhandle since 1926.

Eastern Bluebirds nested near *Marathon* (ML), providing a rare Trans-Pecos nesting record. A Townsend's Solitaire in *Midland* 29 Jul (ph. BL) represented a first summer record for the state. A Wood Thrush



This first-year White-eared Hummingbird at *Lubbock* 12-18 (here 14) July 2005 was the most unexpected part of an invasion of this species into Texas and the Southwest. A staggering 14 were documented from the *Davis* and *Chisos Mountains* in the Trans-Pecos. Photograph by *Brandon Best*.

singing at *Clear Creek*, *Denton* 16 Jun. (DH) provided a very rare summer record for n.-cen. Texas, where the species has been confirmed nesting only once. The long-staying Clay-colored Robin at *L. Jackson*, *Brazoria* continued through the period (TMO). Gray Catbirds nested at *Spring*, *Harris* (DMa) for the 2nd consecutive year and *Vidor*, *Orange* 14 Jun (JW). Two Gray Catbirds at *Anahuac N.W.R.*, *Chambers* 5 Jun (DVe) may also have been breeders. A Brown Thrasher at *High Island*, *Galveston* 5 Jun (DVe) continued the trend of summering birds near the coast.

Presumed *Virginia's Warbler x Colima Warbler* hybrids were again located in the *Davis Mts.*, with up to 9 discovered 11-15 Jun (ML, KBr et al.). An apparent migrant Northern Parula was in *DeWitt* 1 Jun (DMu). The pair of Tropical Parulas at *Hamilton Pool*, *Travis* remained at least through the first week of Jun (CA). An intriguing find was a singing Yellow Warbler along the *Rio Grande* near *Ruidosa*, *Presidio* 3 Jul (SCo, MR); a 2nd bird was thought to be present. This species is not known to nest in the Trans-Pecos. Other interesting Yellow Warbler sightings included a late migrant in *Midland*, *Midland* 2 Jun (D&J/M) and an early one at *Webberville Park*, *Travis* 18 Jul (BFR). Continuing the astounding find of the past spring, up to 20 territorial male Mangrove Warblers were present in the mangroves surrounding the South Bay of the *Laguna Madre*, *Cameron* (ScC, DB). A singing Chestnut-sided Warbler in w. *Harris* 1 Jun (JoK) was the first ever Jun record for the U.T.C. Late migrant Magnolia Warblers included singles 1 Jun in *Guadalupe* (SS) and *Quintana*, *Brazoria* (RW). Two wandering first-fall Golden-cheeked Warblers were near *Early*, *Brown* 8 Jul (AH, AvH). Interesting summer records of Black-throated Green Warblers came from *Pedernales Falls*, *Blanco* 12 Jun (PS) and *Guadalupe* 28 Jul (SS). The Yellow-throated Warbler discovered in the *Davis Mts.* in the spring remained until at least 19 Jun (ML). Apparent early migrants, single Prairie Warblers were at *Dos Vacas Muertas*, *Galveston* 24 Jul (DVe) and *Port O'Connor*, *Calhoun* 30 Jul (BFR). A Black-and-white Warbler at *Big Bend's Laguna Meadows*, *Brewster* 19 Jul (BRo) was on the early side for this rare migrant. Of particular interest was the discovery of a pair of Swainson's Warblers in *Van Zandt* 9 Jun+ (BG, DH), which provided a first breeding record for n.-cen. Texas. Additional searches in the vicinity revealed at least five other territories (BG, DH, RKi). A Swainson's Warbler near the *Navasota R.*, *Grimes* 2 Jul (DVo) was the 2nd for the county. A lingering migrant Northern Waterthrush was present in *DeWitt* 1 Jun (DMu). Louisiana Waterthrush is a local breeding species in the Hill Country and in n.-cen. Texas. This season, one was on territory in *Denton* 16 Jun (DH), and singles were noted at *Fort Hood*, *Bell* 15 Jun and 9 Jul (RKO). Territorial male Common Yellowthroats were found for the 4th consecutive year near *Afton*, *Dickens*, where 2 were noted 25 Jun (AH, BB, m.ob.). The male Gray-crowned Yellowthroat that has been present at the *Sabal Palm Sanctuary*, *Cameron* for most of the past two years attracted a female this summer. A nest containing 4 young was discovered 26 Jun (SL).

SA Something was afoot with **White-eared Hummingbirds** this summer, as an unprecedented number was recorded in the state. An inkling of what was to come began with a female in lower Boot Canyon, *Brewster* 2 Jun (ph., †BG). However, three weeks later, the dam burst, when at least **11** individuals appeared in the cen. Davis Mts. 24 Jun (ph., †M&ME, ph., †ML). Many remained through the period, which raised speculation about local nesting in the highlands. In the Chisos Mts., an ad. male also appeared 24 Jun, to be joined by at least one other male and a female through 19 Jul (†AL, GCo, †BG, ph., †BRo et al.). The topper was a first-year White-eared in Lubbock 12-18 Jul (JCr, †AH, †BB, m.ob.), providing a very unexpected first record for nw. Texas.

JiP, DB); unfortunately, the nest suffered depredation four days later. A Hooded Warbler at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 30 Jul (SM) was apparently a very early migrant.

Painted Redstarts were again much in evidence in Big Bend's Chisos Mts., with a high count of 11 on 2 Jul (GCo, BG). Less expected was a pair with 2 young in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 9 Jul (JKa, ME, ML), providing only the 2nd nesting record for the range. A **Rufous-capped Warbler** was discovered at Westcave Preserve, *Travis* 30 Jun-10 Jul (†VE, KH, et al.), providing a first record for the Austin area. Some 20+ singing Yellow-breasted Chats were tallied 21 Jun in e. *Van Zandt* (BG, DH), a localized population. One at Silver Falls, *Crosby* 25 Jun (AnH) and 3 nearby at White River L., *Crosby* 2 Jul (BB) suggest a resident population in an area where breeding has been noted for four years.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A male Hepatic Tanager was near Utopia, *Uvalde* 26 Jun (†MH). A lingering Summer Tanager remained at Quintana, *Brazoria* 1-16 Jun (TC, CBr, JT). A Scarlet Tanager at Quintana 29 Jul (DVe) may have been an extremely early fall migrant. A Canyon Towhee in sw. *Stephens* 22 Jun (BG, DH) represented a new county record, and another at Waggoner Ranch, *Wilbarger* 8 Jun (CC) was also of interest. At least 10 singing Chipping Sparrows were found 21 Jun in *Van Zandt* (BG, DH), w. of the known breeding range. Three Field Sparrows at White River L., *Crosby* 2 Jul (BB) represented the 3rd year of breeding documented for the site. This site is well away from the known breeding range of this species. Vesper Sparrow is a rare summer visitor to Texas, and this season 2 were near Floydada, *Floyd* 18 Jun (AH, AvH), 5 near Dougherty, *Floyd* 19 Jun (AH, AvH), and 5 at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 26 Jun (AH, AvH). Two

imm. Vesper Sparrows at Muleshoe N.W.R. 30 Jul (BB, AH) were probably migrants, but considering the earlier reports, additional survey efforts many be warranted. A singing Black-throated Sparrow in sw. *Stephens* 22-25 Jun (BG, DH) represented a rare n.-cen. Texas record. An amazing find was a **White-crowned Sparrow** at Canyon Country Club, *Randall* 29 Jul (I&WD), representing a first Jul record for the Panhandle.

A wandering Black-headed Grosbeak in the Franklin Mts., *El Paso* 2 Jul (JPa) was at least three weeks ahead of the normal arrival dates for fall migrants. Also unexpected were single Black-headed Grosbeaks at Canyon Country Club, *Randall* 20 Jul (I&WD) and Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 27 Jul (KS). A male Pyrrhuloxia at Millers Creek Res., *Throckmorton* 4 Jun (BG) was well ne. of the breeding range of this species. A singing Indigo Bunting was in the Franklin Mts., *El Paso* 19 Jun (JPa). This species nested in small numbers in these mountains in the 1980s, but they have been absent in recent years, perhaps due to prolonged drought. Indigo Buntings continue to be found in small numbers at White River L., *Crosby* (BB), but a male at L. Six, *Lubbock* 12 Jun (BB) was unexpected. A pair of Painted Buntings tending fledglings at Muleshoe



For the second consecutive year, multiple pairs of Dusky-capped Flycatchers were present in a secluded canyon in the Davis Mountains, Texas. Three territories were discovered 14 June 2005 (here), with at least two of them successfully fledging young. Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.

N.W.R. 26 Jun (AH, AvH) represented the first documented breeding for the refuge and county. A Dickcissel at Rio Grande Village, Brewster 3 Jul (GCo, BG) must have been a very early fall migrant.

A pair of Bronzed Cowbirds at Brazoria N.W.R. 5 Jun (G&DLi) continued this species' expansion along the coastal prairies. Bronzed Cowbirds are also continuing to be seen on the South Plains, with several in *Lubbock*; however, one at Muleshoe N.W.R. 26 Jun (AH) and 4 imms. there 30 Jul (AH, BB) represented another step northward. Red Crossbills were present in the Davis Mts. again this season, but much more unexpected was one at Boot Spring, Big Bend N.P. 1 Jun (BG). Single Pine Siskins at Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 27 Jun (KS) and in Amarillo, *Potter* 29 Jun (KS) represented rare summer records for this species, which has bred only sporadically in the Panhandle.

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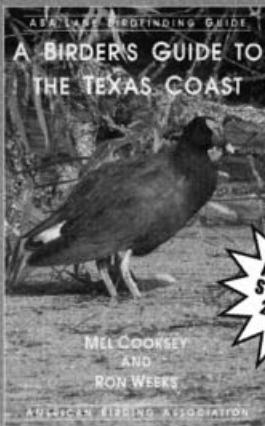
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