



This Chestnut-collared Longspur in Adams County, Nebraska 24 September 2006 provides the first documented record for the eastern part of the state. Photograph by Paul Dunbar.

Nebraska. A Bullock's Oriole in Canadian, OK 17 Sep (JW) was easterly and tardy. The few Purple Finches reported arrived later than usual; noteworthy were singles as far w. as Scott, KS 5 Nov (T&SS); the only one reported in Nebraska was in Platte 23 Nov (MB). A Cassin's Finch was found in Morton, KS 22 Oct (SS). Quite rare was a Lesser Goldfinch in Scotts Bluff, NE 3 Sep (*vide* AK).

Cited observers (subregional and State compilers in boldface): NEBRASKA: Sue Amiotte, Elliott Bedows (EBd), Eric Bents (EBn), Aaron Brees, Mark Brogie, Kathy DeLara,

Stephen J. Dinsmore, Paul Dunbar, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Larry & Carol Falk, William Flack, John Flavin, Lonnie Frimann, Jay Gilliam, Carlos Grandes, Joe Gubanyi (JGu), Carolyn Hall (CHa), John W. Hall, Barbi Hayes (BHy), Derek Hill, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Helen K. Hughson, Bill F. Huser, Marshall J. Iliff, Jan Johnson, Stephen Jones, Joel G. Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Clem N. Klaphake, Thomas E. Labeledz, Kay Niyo, Loren & Babs Padelford, Don & Jan Paseka, Allen Reyer, Tommie Rogers, Paul Roisen, Bill Scheible (BSc), Don Showen (DSh), Rueben Siegfried (RSg), W. Ross Silcock, Larry Snyder, Jon Strong (JSt), T. J. Walker, Scott Wessel, Cole Wild, Lin & Steve Willet, Duane Wolff. KANSAS: Dave Bryan, Doris Burnett (DBu), Burroughs Audubon Society (BAS), Ted Cable (TCa), Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), Dave Fischer, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish (DGi), Paul Griffin, Kevin Groeneweg, Kellye Hart, Dave Henness (DHe), Larry Herbert, Leon Hicks (LHi), Robert Highgate, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Don Kazmaier, Mark Land, Jane Leo (JLe), Nancy Leo, Patty Marlett, Kathy McDowell, Ross McHenry, Aaron Mitchell, Lloyd Moore, Jackie Nooker, Marie Osterbuh, Chuck Otte, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, Mark Robbins (MRo), Carolyn Schwab, Dave

Seibel (DSe), Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Steven Seltman (SSl), Tom & Sara Shane, Jim Shroyer (JSh), W. Ross Silcock, Tom Taggart, Dan Thalman, Max Thompson, Don & Fran Vannoy, Bunnie Watkins (BWa), Rod Wedel, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Brad Williamson, Gene Young. OKLAHOMA: Randy Anderson, Dave Arbour, James W. Arterburn, Jim Bates, Eric Beck, Sandy Berger, Bill Carrell, Tom Curtis, Melinda Droeger, Max Fuller, P. Gay, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Dick Gunn, Brad Harris (BHa), Berlin Heck, Jim Hoffman, Bob Holbrook (BHo), George & Martha Kamp, Jo Loyd, Mike & Merry Ludwig, Larry Mays (LMa), Jeri McMahon, Lynn McRill (LMc), Kurt & Sharon Meisenzahl, Steve Metz, Terry Mitchell (TMi), Mike Mlodonow (MMl), Joe Neal (JNe), Mark Peterson, Mary Peterson (MaP), Jana Singletary (JSi), Jerry Sisler, Ron Shepperd, Brady Surber, S. Tedder, Jim Thayer, Lou & Mary Truex, Laura Upshaw, R. VanZent, Don & Joyce Varner, Pat Velte, Nancy Vicars, Noel Wamer, Cynthia Whittier (CWh), Anne Wilbur, Ken Williams, Jim Woodard. 🌐

Joseph A. Grzybowski, 715 Elmwood Drive Norman, Oklahoma 73072, (j_grzybowski@sbcglobal.net)
W. Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 57 Tabor, Iowa 51673, (silcock@rosssilcock.com)

Texas



Mark W. Lockwood | Eric Carpenter
Willie Sekula

On the weather front, the big news was made in the El Paso area. This region of the state averages just 15.24 cm of precipitation each year; however, over 40 cm

of rain fell on 1 August alone! Abundant rains continued through mid-October, with scattered locations in El Paso County receiving over 100 cm of rain for the period! The Davis Mountains and Big Bend region also saw over half of year-to-date rainfall totals during August. Welcome rains also fell during October in the South Texas Brush Country and along the Coastal Prairies. The remainder of the state was more on the dry side, with water levels in reservoirs and ponds dropping through the season.

In many ways, good shorebird habitat was created in the areas where rainfall was abundant due to localized flooding of agricultural fields and in the Rio Grande floodplain, as well as in the drier regions of the state, where mudflats were exposed by receding water levels. In the western half of the state, hummingbird numbers were reduced at feeders, presumably a result of increased natural food sources. Migrant passerines also appeared to be in reduced numbers, as they were less concentrated in oases visited by birders.

There was no real push of montane irruptives. Jays, nuthatches, and winter finches were conspicuously absent from the Trans-Pecos and northwestern Texas. However, Western and Mountain Bluebirds made good showings. Rarities were in themselves a rarity this fall, but that is not to say there were not some tantalizing finds during the season. The highlights of the season were a Barred Antshrike in Harlingen, discovered in odd circumstances, and a Black-vented Oriole in Big Bend. Also of interest was a strong cold front in late October that pushed many species down to the coast for early, or in some cases, produced most unexpected records—such as McCown's and Lapland Longspurs on the beaches of Brazoria County.

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

An amazing count of over 2000 Canvasbacks was noted at Stillhouse Hollow Res., Bell 4 Nov (JHa). Two Greater Scaup near Grassland, Lynn 25 Nov (AHe) were the only ones reported on the South Plains. Inland Surf



This cooperative Red Phalarope delighted many during its extended stay along the shore of Stillhouse Hollow Lake, Bell County, Texas 23 (here 29) October through 14 November 2006. Photograph by Tony Frank.

Scoters included one at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 19 Oct (EC), one at Kirby L., *Taylor* 24 Oct (LP), and one at Braunig L., *Bexar* 24 Oct (MMS). Two White-winged Scoters visited Pat Cleburne L., *Johnson* 2-4 Nov (ph. JoS). White-winged Scoters were also found at separate *Grayson* locations 26 Nov, one at *Randell* L. and another in *Sherman* (WM). The lone Long-tailed Duck of the season was at *Hagerman* N.W.R., *Grayson* 23-25 Nov (LBa). A notably high count of 85 Hooded Mergansers was made in *Longview*, *Harrison* 9 Nov (DBr, MEd).

The only reported Pacific Loon for the season was 4-20 Nov at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* (MW), where the only reported Red-throated Loon was seen 20 Nov (MW). A Clark's Grebe lingered in *Lubbock* 7 Aug-15 Sep (AW, m.ob.), while a Western Grebe in *Randall* 28 Oct (BP, m.ob.) was the only one reported in the Panhandle. The only organized pelagic trip of the season out of *Cameron* on 19 Aug yielded 20 Cory's Shearwaters, 29 Audubon's Shearwaters, a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, and 3 Masked Boobies (BMc et al.). A Magnificent Frigatebird from the Bolivar Ferry, *Galveston* 10 Nov (WB) was the last of the season. Two American Bitterns were detected in *Carson* 31 Oct (RC), while one was at the Uvalde fish hatchery 20 Oct and 17 Nov (MHe). In *Lubbock*, 3 Great Egrets and 3 Snowy Egrets lingered through the period, continuing the trend by both species of remaining farther n. into early winter (FIR, AHe, BB). A Little Blue Heron was at *Wild Horse* L., *Potter* 21 Aug (LSa). Remarkably far

inland and presumably a county first record, a Reddish Egret was at *Proctor* L., *Comanche* 3 Sep (DDC, DLi). Other well-inland Reddish Egrets included one along the *Nueces* R., *Uvalde* 13 Aug (MHe) and another at *Canyon* L., *Comal* 14 Aug (DPu). Sightings of single imm. Reddish Egrets in se. *Austin*, *Travis* 29 Sep (SY), below *Longhorn* Dam, *Travis* 2-20 Oct (HR, m.ob.), and *Stillhouse Hollow Res.*, *Bell* 28 Oct+ (ES, m.ob.) may all pertain to the same individual. Wood Storks wandered n. to *Smith*, with 3 near *Tyler* 9 Sep (m.ob.) and one at *Camp Tyler* 13-19 Sep (SLo, PB et al.).

FLAMINGO THROUGH RAPTORS

The banded Greater Flamingo that has been wandering along the cen. coast for more than a year continued near *Bayside*, *Refugio* until at least 9 Sep (m.ob.). It was then relocated on the *Aransas* N.W.R., *Calhoun* 20 Nov+. In addition, 3 flamingos were observed near *Indianola*, *Calhoun* 30 Sep (†L&PS); these apparently included the above-mentioned Greater (American), an escaped Greater (Eurasian), and one unidentified flamingo. Black Vultures wandered w. of the expected range into ne. *Archer*, with one there 14 Sep and 8 seen 21 Sep (ScL). Numbers of post-breeding Swallow-tailed Kites were detected from *Freestone* s. to *Waller* and w. to *Bastrop* 6 Aug-16 Sep. Eight sightings (m.ob.) of between one and 3 birds were noted, including a few that lingered in the same area for a few days; 5 were seen at the *Brazos* R., *Waller* 2 Sep (EC). The *Hazel Bazemore* Hawkwatch, *Nueces* recorded a high of 21 Swallow-taileds 17 Aug (*vide* JSi).

Two White-tailed Kites w. of *Girard*, *Kent* 21 Oct (AHe) and one near *Soda* L., *Midland* 26 Sep (DMe, †JMe, SE) were county firsts and added to a growing list of (at least formerly) extralimital sightings in the w. half of the state. Other wandering White-taileds of interest included one in *Bell* 6 Sep (RPi) and 3 in *Angelina* 29 Sep (NB). An ad. and 2 fledgling Mississippi Kites in *Round Rock* 4-7 Aug (TFe) provided a first nesting record for *Williamson*. The *Smith Point* Hawkwatch reported their record-high 7 Bald Eagles, with a one-day count of 4 birds 28 Oct. A Common Black-Hawk was carefully studied along the *Nueces* R., *Uvalde* 13 Aug (MHe, MO). Well out-of-range Harris's Hawks included singles in *Wichita Falls*, *Wichita* 18 Sep (BoL, PLi) and *Gray* 20 Sep-28 Oct (JEl, KG). Harris's Hawks also made a strong showing on the U.T.C., with several sightings from *Brazoria* to *Chambers*. Perhaps part of the same movement, Harris's Hawks were also reported from *Bastrop*, *Hays*, *Travis* (m.ob.), and most notably one at *Richland Creek* W.M.A., *Navarro* 26 Aug (DDC, DLi). In the *Midland* area Red-shouldered Hawks made an impressive showing, with 7 single-bird sightings and two sightings of multiple birds (BLu). Perhaps that also explains single Red-shouldered Hawks at *Buffalo Lake* N.W.R., *Randall* 23 Oct (BP, PT), *Coyanosa*, *Pecos* 8 Oct (ML), and w. *Jeff Davis* 10 Oct (DLA, JPO). Providing a rare *El Paso* record was a Zone-tailed Hawk 5 Oct (BZ). A Golden Eagle over *Smith Pt.*, *Chambers* 20 Oct (JK, HT, JvD) and one in w. *Jefferson* 11 Nov (JW et al.) were good records for the U.T.C.

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

A Snowy Plover at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 23 Nov (MW) and a Piping Plover at the same location 3 Oct (ph. MW) were late migrants. The last of a few mid-Nov American Golden-Plovers was one at *Drum Pt.*, *Kleberg* 23 Nov (ACo, MC). Exceptionally early was a Mountain Plover in its usual haunts around *Granger* L., *Williamson* 3 Sep (TFe); rare on the coast, one was at *Bolivar Flats*, *Galveston* 28 Oct (WB, ph. BA). Having last been documented in the state in 1994, a mini-invasion of Northern Jaçana in *Hildago* provided some excitement for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Three were documented: one at *Estero Llano Grande* S.P. 5-19 Aug and 3 Sep-14 Nov (†RZ, MM, m.ob.); one at *Bentsen* S.P. 10-18 Aug (JBo, †MGU, m.ob.); and another in *Mission* 22 Aug (†DDa). Very late was an Upland Sandpiper in se. *Bell* 5 Nov (RPi). Unusual in w. *El Paso* was a Marbled Godwit 14 Oct (JPa). A Ruddy Turnstone was at *Sundown Playa*, *Randall* 6 Sep (†LSa); this species is a

casual visitor to the Panhandle. A Sanderling at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 7 Oct (AHe, JHe, JJ) was the first reported from the South Plains since 2002. Five Dunlins at L. Meredith, *Moore* 4 Nov (BP) was a high count for the Panhandle. A Stilt Sandpiper at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 19 Nov (BB) was very late. Representing a significant portion of the estimated world population of this species, a phenomenal flock of over 1000 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was noted between Harlingen and Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., *Cameron* 27 Aug (PW), with several hundred birds lingering until 29 Aug. An American Woodcock in w. Clay 11 Nov (Scl, DHo) was a rare find for the Wichita Falls region. Single Red-necked Phalaropes were good finds at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 27 Aug (JSc) and 23 Sep (GC, TR); 2 more were on L. Ray Hubbard, *Dallas* 18-19 Sep (CRu, GC). Numerous birders were treated to a Red Phalarope during its prolonged stay at Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell* 28 Oct-14 Nov (†RPi, m.ob.); one also lingered briefly in w. *Jefferson* 18-21 Nov (†SM et al.).

A Pomarine Jaeger was observed at L. Tawakoni, *Hunt* 10 Oct (MW). Also of interest was a Parasitic Jaeger harassing Black Terns at Sundown Playa, *Randall* 4 Sep (BP). Another inland jaeger, not identified to species, was at L. Palestine, *Henderson* 1 Sep (RG). In what is becoming an annual occurrence, an ad. Little Gull visited L. Tawakoni, *Hunt* 21-22 Nov (MW, †RG). A California Gull was seen on Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 17 Nov (MA), and up to 4 were noted at L. Tawakoni, *Rains/Van Zandt* 4-24 Nov (MW, RKi, RB). A first-winter Thayer's Gull was at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 19 Nov (MW). An early Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Surfside, *Brazoria* 2 Oct (SLo). Sabine's Gulls were again widely represented in the state this fall; singles near Pantex, *Carson* 11 Sep (MKe, LR), Padre Island N.S., *Kenedy/Willacy* 16 Sep (ph. BSA), and Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 23 Sep (BB) were the most notable. A first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 12 Nov (†RW) was the 3rd earliest fall record for the U.T.C. Single Common Terns in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 20-21 Aug (EM, RM) were notable for the South Plains. A single Bridled Tern and 34 Sooty Terns were seen on the 19 Aug pelagic trip out of South Padre I., *Cameron* (BMc). Several late Black Terns were seen at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* 6 Nov (DPe).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A female Ruddy Ground-Dove was reported at Llano Estero Grande S.P., *Hidalgo* 9-17 Sep (†MO, †TB). A Black-billed Cuckoo seen in

Utopia, *Uvalde* 11 Sep (MHe) made a fine fall record for the Hill Country. Late migrant Black-billed were at Smith Pt., *Chambers* 24 Oct (HT) and High I., *Galveston* 29 Oct (DVe). An early Burrowing Owl was found in *Williamson* 15 Oct (TFe). A road-killed Long-eared Owl was picked up in ne. Austin, *Travis* 1 Nov (*vide* EC), and one was heard calling pre-dawn at Daughtrey W.M.A., *Live Oak* 19 Nov (RW, BLi, DPe). An ad. Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 24 Oct (ph. KB) was a great find for the state. Very unexpected was a group of 5 Lesser Nighthawks in Cisco, *Eastland* 3 Sep (DDC, DLI). Lingered Common Nighthawks were noted in Friendswood, *Harris* 7 Nov (MA) and in High I., *Galveston* 12 Nov (AHe).



Although there have been suggestions that Northern Saw-whet Owls might be rare residents of the Guadalupe Mountains in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas, the discovery of one of these owls in the state is always newsworthy. This one was in a stand of Ponderosa Pines in the Davis Mountains, *Jeff Davis County* on 24 October 2006. Photograph by Kelly Bryan.

A nighthawk at Quintana, *Brazoria* 23 Nov (RW) was not identified to species. A Common Poorwill at Union Grove W.M.A., *Bell* 1 Nov (RPi) was tardy. A Chuck-will's-widow at Harris Tank, *Midland* 28 Sep (RMS, FRo) provided a rare record for the area. Two exceptionally late Whip-poor-wills were found in East Texas this fall: one was heard at L. Ratcliff, *Houston* 10 Nov; the other was a road-killed individual in *Angelina* 11 Nov (AHe).

Chaetura swifts tantalized Texas birders this season. A lone bird seen in El Paso, *El Paso* 29 Sep was thought not to be a Chimney Swift (BZ), while one in late Oct near Pedernales Falls S.P., *Blanco* passed through three weeks after Chimney Swifts had left the observer's three swift towers (*vide* P&GK). A Green Violet-ear graced a *Bowie* feeder in ne. Texas 9-10 Sep (ph. JAm). A Broad-billed

Hummingbird at a feeder in Harlingen, *Cameron* 9 Sep provided a rare Lower Rio Grande Valley record (MHa). The two summering White-eared Hummingbirds in the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* lingered until 17 Sep (*vide* ML). Two Black-chinned Hummingbirds visited feeders in *Rusk* 12 Sep (PHa). Calliope Hummingbirds of particular note included singles near Greenwood, *Wise* 2-7 Sep (CC) and in *Live Oak* 29 Oct-5 Nov (GB). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were noted more frequently in areas away from West Texas this fall. Most notable were singles at Wichita Falls, *Wichita* 23 Aug (BoL) and *Rusk* 26 Aug-11 Sep (PHa), the latter providing a 2nd record for the Pineywoods. The U.T.C. had 2 this fall: one at Friendswood, *Harris* 21 Oct (MA) and an imm. male in w. Houston, *Harris* 12 Nov (JHi); an imm. male was seen feeding on shrimp plant near Poth, *Wilson* 17 Nov (WS). Allen's Hummingbirds were recorded at several locations, with an ad. male returning to a w. Houston yard 12 Nov+ (SW), another ad. male in w. El Paso 2-4 Aug (JPa), and a female Allen's recaptured 2 Aug at the banding station near Victoria, *Victoria* (BO).

Ringed Kingfishers made news in the Concho Valley, with an ad. female at San Angelo S.P., *Tom Green* 7 Oct (ph. JaP) and one along the Concho R. in San Angelo, *Tom Green* 22 Nov (TMa). One on w. Galveston I. 6 Nov (JSt) furnished just the 5th record for the U.T.C. An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker within earshot of the surf at Quintana, *Brazoria* 19 Sep (RW) was unexpected in that coastal location. Once again, a small group of Acorn Woodpeckers was detected in a w. El Paso neighborhood in early Nov (m.ob.). The presence of this species over the past several winters, along with a Jun 2006 report, suggests that this species may have taken up residence in this area. A stunning male Williamson's Sapsucker was at Harris Tank, *Midland* 4 Nov (ph. BLu et al.). A well-marked male Red-naped Sapsucker in Temple, *Bell* 4 Nov (RPi) provided a new county record. Adding to a growing number of records from the U.T.C., a Ladder-backed Woodpecker was at Lafitte's Cove, *Galveston* from 29 Oct-19 Nov (DMc, MBr et al.). A Hairy Woodpecker at Armand Bayou Nature Center, *Harris* 21 Oct (LF) was well s. of this species' normal range on the U.T.C.

ANTSHRIKE THROUGH SWALLOWS

A Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliiatus*) was clearly recorded, but not observed, at Harlingen, *Cameron* 1 Sep (acc., †MHa). The circumstances of the discovery are unusual in that the bird was singing from a hidden perch

after dark under a bright outdoor light. Subsequent searches the following day, including the use of playback, were unsuccessful. *Thamnophilus antshrikes* are not known to vocalize at night, but many other diurnal species have been attracted to insects that are drawn to the bright lights at this location. This is the first report of any species in the *Thamnophilidae* in the United States. Banded Antshrike is a common resident in southern Tamaulipas; the closest population is found within 250 km of the Texas border.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher on Pleasure I., *Jefferson* 3 Aug (JK) was the 3rd earliest ever for the fall on the U.T.C. A Greater Pewee was at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground 30 Sep–7 Oct (†RR, †SLo, †DLe et al.). An Eastern Wood-Pewee was singing in Thompson Grove, *Dallam* 2 Sep (BP). A Hammond's Flycatcher was identified by field marks and voice near Utley, *Bastrop* 27–28 Aug (BFR). Single Dusky Flycatchers at Harris Tank, *Midland* 11 Sep (RMS, FRo) and L. Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* 8 Oct (BB) were noteworthy. Single Great Crested Flycatchers at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 31 Aug (MF) and in El Paso 4 Sep (BZ) were significant fall records for West Texas. A Great Kiskadee was present at Webberville Park, *Travis* 7 Nov (BFR); far less expected was one at Abilene, *Taylor* 14 Sep+ (LP, ph. JEn, m.ob.). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was reported from Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 10–11 Sep (†JoH), while a Gray Kingbird delighted observers at Hazel Bazemore County Park in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 26–29 Oct (LE, DaF, †MC et al.) and represents the 7th record for the state.

Single Northern Shrikes at L. Meredith, *Moore* 4 Nov (BP) and in *Dallam* 18–24 Nov (TeF et al.) were close to average for the Panhandle. Far more unexpected was an imm. Northern Shrike at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 7 Nov + (KHa, m.ob.), providing only the 3rd record for n.-cen. Texas. A Plumbeous Vireo at High I., *Galveston* (DVe) was only the 5th for the U.T.C., while another at Rose Hill Cemetery in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 4 Nov (MC) was at the same spot where this rare winter visitor has occurred several times previously. A Philadelphia Vireo at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., *Randall* 4 Sep (BP) was an exceptional find for the Panhandle. A Yellow-green Vireo was at Santa Ana N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 27 Aug (DJ). A Green Jay was apparently present for about two weeks in Sep near Copperas Creek Campground at Bastrop–Buescher S.P., *Bastrop* (fide TMC). Apparently, just 3 Brown

Jays persist in the United States, at the now-altered Chapeño site (m.ob.), where they have become difficult to find. More than 875 Tree Swallows at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 2 Sep (BB, DLu, AHe) was an amazing congregation for the South Plains.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WARBLERS

Nuthatches wandering unusually close to the coast included a Red-breasted on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 7 Nov (JSt) and a Brown-headed in s.-cen. *Jefferson* 17 Sep (RJ, KS). A Rock Wren at L. Wright Patman, *Bowie* 5 Nov (MD) was the easternmost in Texas since the 1960s. Slightly more expected were 2 at Lake Tawakoni S.P., *Van Zandt* 7–28 Nov (RKi) and another at L. Tawakoni, *Hunt* 7 Nov (RKi).



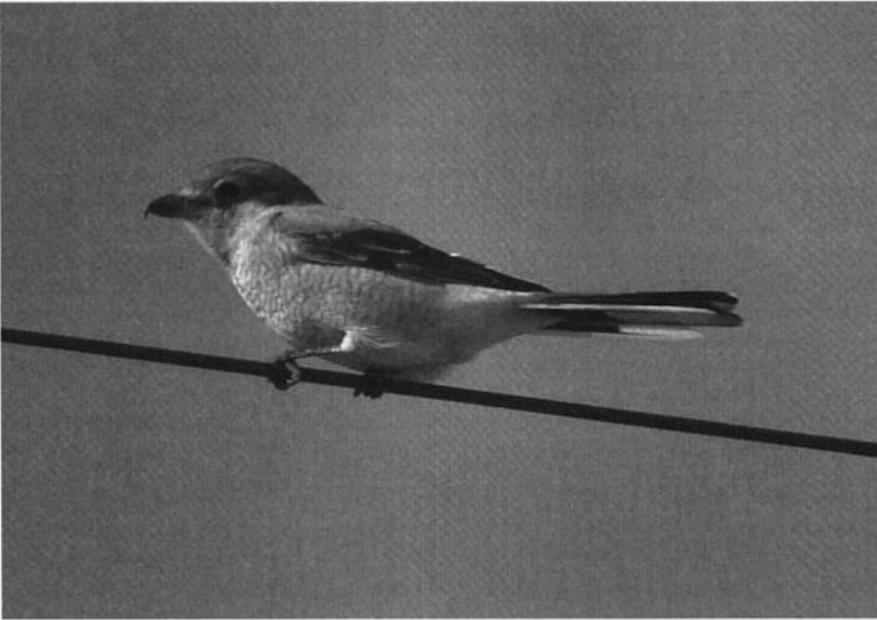
Great Kiskadees are known to wander away from their normal range, but this bird at Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, found 14 (here 17) September 2006, was unexpected so far to the northwest. Photograph by John English.

Winter Wrens made a good showing in the Trans-Pecos, with one in the Davis Mts. 13–15 Oct (RPI), singles at three different Big Bend N.P. locations during Nov (m.ob.), and one in Alpine, *Brewster* 20 Nov (ML). A strong invasion of Golden-crowned Kinglets was detected throughout the e. half of the state; the first individuals were reported on 20 Oct, and good numbers were subsequently tallied in numerous locations. An early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was noted at Quintana, *Brazoria* 13 Sep (JAR). Western Bluebirds were well represented in nw. Texas, with the most noteworthy sightings including 50+ at Blackwell, *Coke* 28 Oct (ph. JGr) and 5 near Quanah, *Hardeman* 2 Nov (BFR). Mountain Bluebirds arrived early and in large numbers in the Panhandle, with 300+ at L. Meredith, *Moore* and 700+ in *Potter* 27 Sep (BP); the easternmost report of this species was 8 in *Mason* 22–23 Nov (DFe, BoF). A very late Gray-cheeked Thrush at L. Ratcliff, *Houston* 10 Nov (†AHe) provided a first fall record for the Pineywoods. Early Swainson's Thrushes were at

Sabine Woods and Sea Rim S.P., *Jefferson* 24 Sep (DVe). Two Hermit Thrushes at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 19 Aug (BB) were a month ahead of schedule. A lingering Wood Thrush was present in San Antonio, *Bexar* 1 Nov (BW), only to be outdone by one at High I., *Galveston* 25 Nov (TE). A Varied Thrush was a one-day wonder at Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson* 15 Nov (†SH).

An impressive concentration of 500 Gray Catbirds was discovered at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 21 Oct (JW et al). Single Sage Thrashers made early appearances at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 2 Sep (BB, AHe, DLu) and near Whiteface, *Cochran* 22 Sep (AHe). Even more unusual was the appearance of Sage Thrashers on the U.T.C., with singles near Smith Pt., *Chambers* 24 Oct (HT), *Brazoria* N.W.R., *Brazoria* 28 Oct (ph. GLa), and Sea Rim S.P., *Jefferson* 3 Nov (DVe). An American Pipit in *Rusk* 16 Aug (PHa) was early by a month, providing a first Aug record for ne. Texas.

A Tennessee Warbler was well out w. in El Paso 30 Oct (BZ). An Orange-crowned Warbler in *Harris* 31 Aug (DDi) provided the 3rd earliest fall record for the U.T.C. Nashville Warbler made news, with one in *Nacogdoches* 4 Sep (DW) providing a new early record and late lingering birds found 19 Nov in *Bell* (RKO) and *Travis* (EC, RKA). A Blue-winged Warbler at Spring Branch, *Blanco* 16 Sep (LL) provided a first fall record for the Hill Country. Rare fall records were provided by 2 Blue-winged Warblers in Austin, *Travis* 20 Sep (A&JB) and 2 Golden-wingeds there 25–26 Sep (MR, KA). Three Chestnut-sided Warblers at L. Sam Rayburn, *Angelina* 21 Oct (DW, RT) were late. It was a banner fall for Black-throated Blue Warblers in Texas, with at least 12 individuals reported; most noteworthy were singles in *Randall* 5 Oct (BMu) and San Angelo S.P., *Tom Green* 7 Oct (ph. JAp). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 10 Sep (RB) was record early. Eastward-wandering Black-throated Gray Warblers included singles at San Antonio, *Bexar* 4 Oct (DaL), Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 18 Nov (BFR, PHo), and Pleasanton, *Atascosa* 27 Nov (MP). A count of 6 Black-throated Green Warblers was tallied in *Fayette* 8 Nov (BFR). A Hermit Warbler in El Paso 30 Sep (JPa) was a nice find for that lowland location. A Blackburnian Warbler was in *Lubbock*, *Lubbock* 17 Sep (JC), and there was a lingering bird on w. Galveston I 10 Nov (JSt). A Grace's Warbler in El Paso 16 Aug (BZ) was notable at that low elevation. Single Pine Warblers were at Rio Grande Vil-



Northern Shrikes are rare winter residents in the Texas Panhandle, but they are casual to accidental anywhere else in the state. This immature at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, Grayson County stayed 7 November 2006 and into winter (here 16 December), the third documented record for north-central Texas. Photograph by Chris Easley.

lage, *Brewster* 27 Nov (ph. CL), in *Randall* 20 Sep (BMu), and at *Spur, Dickens* 5 Nov (AHe). Fall Blackpoll Warblers are always of interest; singles were found at *Rita Blanca L., Hartley* 14 Oct (BP, LSa) and *Sabine Woods, Jefferson* 16 Oct (LBa).

A Prothonotary Warbler was westerly at *Amarillo, Potter* 8 Aug (LSa), and a lingering bird was at *San Bernard N.W.R., Brazoria* 12 Nov (RW). A nice find was a Worm-eating Warbler at *Lake Tawakoni S.P., Hunt* 21 Sep (RKi). A Swainson's Warbler at *Quintana, Brazoria* 13 Oct (RW) and an Ovenbird at *High I., Galveston* 25-26 Nov (TE, JMa) were both late. Lingering Louisiana Waterthrushes included singles in *Travis* 20 Oct (KA) and *Bear Creek Park, Harris* 18 Nov (†DDi). A Mourning Warbler at *Sabine Woods, Jefferson* 20 Aug (DVe) was early. An eastward-wandering MacGillivray's Warbler at *Houston, Harris* 10 Sep (BH) was the earliest ever fall record for the U.T.C.; one window-killed at *Texas A&M University* 20 Sep (AnC, *TCWC) provided the first county record since 1980. A rather early push of Hooded Warblers was noted by *Verser*, with singles at *Sabine Woods* and *Sea Rim S.P.*, both *Jefferson*, and at *High I., Galveston* 5 Aug. Others at *Round Rock* 26 Aug (KHo) and at *Granger L.* 23 Sep (TFe) provided overdue first records for *Williamson*. A concentration of 20 Wilson's Warblers at *Quintana, Brazoria* 13 Sep (JAr) was an exceptionally high count for the U.T.C. Very late lingering Wilson's Warblers were found in *El Paso* 19 Nov (JPa) and *Morton, Cochran* 4

Nov (AHe). A late Canada Warbler was at *Galveston Island S.P., Galveston* 12 Nov (AHe). The Rufous-capped Warblers present at *Concan, Uvalde* since the spring were seen again 6 Oct, and one was still present 25 Nov (MHe).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A banded Summer Tanager was seen at *Bel-laire, Harris* 20 Oct (DVe) and is believed to be the same bird that has spent the previous three winters at the same location. A male Scarlet Tanager at *Sabine Woods, Jefferson* 3 Nov (DVe) was late. An Eastern Towhee in *Lee* 21 Oct (DVo, MBa) tied the early arrival date for the area. A real surprise was provided by an American Tree Sparrow on *North Padre I., Nueces* 18 Nov (LJ); this bird was in the same spot as the first Coastal Bend record from Dec 2004. Two rather early Clay-colored Sparrows were at *Webberville Park, Travis* 1 Sep (BFR), and there were 3 reported from the U.T.C.: in *Harris* 21 Sep (JBe), on *w. Galveston I.* 29 Sep (JSt), and at *Quintana, Brazoria* 13 Oct-3 Nov (JSt, DVe, RW). Two Savannah Sparrows at *Anahuac N.W.R., Chambers* 29 Sep (JK) were early. A Grasshopper Sparrow at *Port Bolivar, Galveston* 16 Sep (CTL) was one of the earliest ever for the U.T.C. As has become expected, Baird's Sparrows were again found on the *Marfa Plateau*, with up to 4 in *w. Jeff Davis* 7-9 Oct (†DLA, JPO, KB, ML) and one *sw. of Marfa, Presidio* 22 Nov (†DBo). More unexpected was one near *Lehman, Cochran* 4 Nov (†AHe). An outstanding find

was a Henslow's Sparrow at *Willis Creek Park, Williamson* 26 Nov (ph. TFe, BSt), providing a very rare record from the Blackland Prairies region. An impressive count of 35 Le Conte's Sparrows was recorded at *Granger L., Williamson* 26 Nov (TFE, BSt). A Harris's Sparrow at the *Baytown Nature Center, Harris* 25 Nov (DwL) was e. of the normal range. Not only was a McCown's Longspur near the *Quintana Jetty, Brazoria* 28 Oct (ph. RW) just the 5th for the U.T.C. and a county first, but it also provided an early record for that area. A Lapland Longspur at *Bryan Beach, Brazoria* 22 Oct (ph. MGr, CRi) also was a county first.

Northern Cardinal is generally absent from *El Paso*, so a male at the *Rio Bosque Wetlands Park* 8-21 Oct (JoG, JSp) was a good find. Black-headed Grosbeaks were found at scattered locations in the e. half of the state: one in *Washington* 18 Sep (DVo), 2 ad. males in *Harris* 24 Sep (LC), one at *Quintana, Brazoria* 14-15 Oct (MA, JSt), one at *Alazan Bayou W.M.A., Nacogdoches* 14 Oct (DW, RT), and one at *La Grange, Fayette* 8 Nov (BFR), the latter furnishing a first county record. Two early Indigo Buntings were found at *Sabine Woods, Jefferson* 20 Aug (DVe). A lingering Painted Bunting remained at *Quintana, Brazoria* through 16 Oct (JSt, RW et al.).

A Western Meadowlark at *L. Rayburn, San Augustine* 13 Oct (DW) was the earliest ever for the Pineywoods by two weeks. A female Orchard Oriole near *Afton, Dickens* 7 Oct (BB) provided a late record for the South Plains. The rarity of the season was the ad. Black-vented Oriole reported from *Big Bend's Rio Grande Village* 6 Oct (†MF). Paling in comparison to the Black-vented, but still an excellent rarity for that area, a male Baltimore Oriole was also at *Rio Grande Village* 9 Nov (BG, DHi). Three House Finches were located in *Brownsville, Cameron* 7 Nov (MJI); these birds are either part of an isolated population or potentially early founders of the continuing southward expansion of the population. Pine Siskins were scarce in many parts of the state, which makes 6 early arriving birds at *Fort Parker S.P., Limestone* 26 Oct (RS) all the more interesting. Single Lesser Goldfinches were noted at *L. Tanglewood, Randall* 10 Aug (BP) and at *Palo Duro Canyon, Randall* 28 Oct (BP, m.ob.); this species is rare in the Panhandle but appears to be expanding its range northward into the area. Also of interest was an eastward-wandering Lesser Goldfinch near *Utley, Bastrop* 25 Oct (BFR). Early arriving American Goldfinches appeared at three locations in *Waco, McLennan* during late Aug (*vide MeG*). This was perhaps a primer for the American Goldfinches at *Houston's Bear Creek Park, Harris* 23 Sep (DDi) and *Armand*

Bayou Nature Center, Harris 14 Oct (MKi), which provided new fall early records for the U.T.C.

Cited observers (subregional editors in boldface): Bruce Aldfredson, Julia Amburn (JAm), Ken Anderson, John Arvin (JAr), Mike Austin, Terry Baldwin, Andy & Julia Balinsky, Ron Baltzegar, Lynn Barber, Peter Barnes, Mark Bartosik (MBa), John Berner (JBe), Brandon Best, Nancy Bird, Gene Blacklock, Jim Booker (JBo), Devin Bosler (DBo), Martha Brogdon (MBr), David Brotherton (DBr), Kelly Bryan, Winnie Burkett, Rudy Cadra, Eric Carpenter, Andy Conkey (AnC), Greg Cook,



This Henslow's Sparrow at Granger Lake, Williamson County 26 November 2006 provided a very rare record of the species for central Texas. Photograph by Tim Fennell.

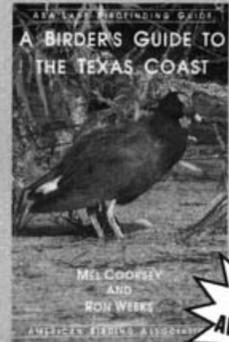
Arlie Cooksey (ACo), **Mel Cooksey** (South Texas: 16 Townhouse Lane, Corpus Christi, TX 78412. email: ssi@stx.rr.com), Laura Cox, Jim Crites, D.D. Currie, Claire Curry, David Dauphin (DDa), Drew Dickert (DDi), Mike Dillon, Sybil Eberhart, Mark Edmund, Jan Elston (JEI), John English (JEn), Ted Eubanks, Libby Even, Tim Fennell (TFe), Terry Ferguson (TeF), Dane Ferrell (DaF), Dixie Feuerbacher (DFe), Mark Flippo, Laurie Foss, Bobby Frazier (BoF), Brush Freeman (BFR), **Bert Frenz** (BeF) (East Texas: 221 Rainbow Dr., #12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021. email: bert2@bafrenz.com), Brian Gibbons, Michael Gray (MGr), Kathryn Green, Mel Grider (MeG), John Groves (JoG), Joe Grzybowski (JGr), Mary Gustafson (MGU), Ron Gutberlet, Martin Hagne (MHa), Karl Haller (KHa), Jeff Hanson (JHa), Peggy Harding (PHa), John Haynes (JoH), Scott Haywood, Mitch Heindel (MHe), Jack Henshall (JHe), **Anthony Hewetson** (AHe) (Northwest Texas: 4407 36th St., Lubbock TX 79414. email: terverts@yahoo.com), Derek Hill (DHi), Jim Hinson (JHi), Petra Hockey (PHo), David Holbert (DHo), Kelly Holligan (KHo), Bob Honig, Marshall J. Iliff, Jim Joiner, Dan Jones, Larry Jordan, Ray Jordan, Rich Kaskan (RKA), Mike Keck (MKe), Joseph Kennedy, Richard Kinney (RKi), Marilyn Kircus (MKi), Rich Kostecke (RKO), Paul & Georgan Kyle, Dan Lane (DLa), Danny Large (DaL), Greg Lavaty (GLa), Daniel Leavitt (DLe), Cin-Ty Lee (CTL), Bob Lindsay (BoL), Phyllis Lindsay (PLi), Leslie Lineham, Brad Lirette (BLi), Dwayne Liteer (DwL), Dell Little (DLi), Mark Lockwood, Scotty Lofland (ScL), Stephan Lorenz (SLo), David Lukas (DLu), Carl Lundblad, Bill Lupardus (BLu), John Mariani

(JMa), Marcy Martinez, Ray Matlack, Terry Maxwell (TMa), Steve Mayes, Ellen McBride, Todd McClanahan (TMc), David McDonald (DMc), Brad McKinney (BMc), Don Merritt (DMe), Joann Merritt (JMe), Wayne Meyer, Bill Murphy (BMu), John P. O'Neill, Brent Ortego, Mike Overton, Jay Packer (JaP), Laura Packer, **Jim Paton** (JPa) (Trans-Pecos: 4325 Boy Scout Lane, El Paso, TX 79922. email: patonjn@netzero.net), Mike Paul, Dick Peake (DPe), Barrett Pierce, Randy Pinkston (RPi), David Pueppke (DPu), Lee Read, Roy Reinarz, Thomas Riecke, Cecilia Riley (CRi), Floyd Robertson (FR), Mike Rogan, Forrest Rowland (FRo), Chris Runk (CRu), Homer Rushing, Billy Sandifer (BSa), Laura Sare (LSa), John Schenk (JSc), **Willie Sekula** (Central Texas: 7063 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113-2627. email: wsekula@peoplepc.com), Larry & Pati Semander, Joel Simon (JSi), Roy Smallwood, John Sproul (JSp), Eric Stager, Jonathon Stanley (JoS), Jim Stevenson (JSt), Byron Stone (BSt), Rose Marie Stortz, Malcolm Mark Swan, Ken Sztraky, Peggy Tropper, Heidi Trudell, Robert Truss, John van Dort, Don Verser (DVe), Darrell Vollert (DVo), Pat Wade, Achim Weber, **Ron Weeks** (UTC: 110 Indian Warrior, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. email: empidonax@sbcglobal.net), Matt White, John Whittle, Brad Wier, Stephen Williams, David Wolf, Scott Young, Ruben Zamora, Barry Zimmer. ☪

Mark W. Lockwood, 402 East Harriet Avenue Alpine, Texas 79830, (mark.lockwood@tpwd.state.tx.us)
Eric Carpenter, 10610 Morado Circle #2325 Austin, Texas 78759, (ecarpe@gmail.com)
Willie Sekula, 7063 County Road 228 Falls City, Texas 78113-2627, (wsekula@peoplepc.com)

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