

bler was noted in *Russel*, KS June 2 (MR). Prothonotary Warblers were found at the Salt Plains June 12–16 (WH). A Worm-eating Warbler June 12 at *Leavenworth*, KS (DW, DO) probably sets a point on the w. boundary of the species range in Kansas.

Encouraging was a report of 200 Ovenbirds in *Brown*, NE June 17 (LR, RH). A Louisiana Waterthrush was observed carrying food in *Nemahal/Richardson*, NE June 26 (BH), a northeasterly report in the Region. A Louisiana Waterthrush June 24 in *Washita*, OK (JAG) provided a first record for this w. Oklahoma county. Testing the limits of its species' range was a Kentucky Warbler in *Nemahal/Richardson*, NE through the end of June (JG, BP, LP); a Mourning Warbler at this location June 11 (JG) was considered a migrant. The Hooded Warbler in *Leavenworth*, KS June 10 (DW, DO) may have been an extralimital vagrant.

A Scarlet Tanager was present in *Cherry*, NE July 19 (JG), a w. outpost for this species. A W. Tanager noted in *Kimball*, NE June 11 (JG) was probably a late migrant. Black-headed Grosbeaks were still migrating in good numbers June 4 in *Morton*, KS (MT, SP). Painted Buntings reached *Riley*, KS July 20 (TC) and *Geary*, KS June 11 (CH, LM). Single Lazuli Buntings June 5 in *Grant*, KS (MT, SP) and June 27 in *Cowley*, KS (JN) suggest breeding. Outstanding were 25 territorial ♂ Lazulis located on burn sites of recent years in the Wichita Mts. and adjacent Fort Sill military reservation (JAG); only two birds were observed during summer in the 10 years of work in this area, both in 1994, though apparent Indigo x Lazuli hybrids raise suspicions as to local status of the Lazulis. This summer, two nests were located, one with young near fledging, and an additional fledged brood was also observed (JAG).

A Clay-colored Sparrow June 10 in *Trego*, KS (SS) was likely a tardy spring migrant. A Field Sparrow in *Kimball*, NE June 24 (WRS) was west of its normal haunts. A real surprise was a Black-throated Sparrow July 22 in *Hodgeman*, KS (SS). John Zimmerman felt that numbers of Henslow's Sparrows in the Flint Hills were up this year (*fide* LM). Two ♂ Henslow's in *Elsworth*, KS May 29 (SP, BB) and *Cloud*, KS June 20 (BB) may represent satellite groups from populations in the Flint Hills. Even farther afield were six ♂ Henslow's Sparrows observed in *Pawnee*, NE June 26 (BP, LP). Swamp Sparrows at the s. edge of their breeding range were noted in *Phelps*, NE (LR, RH) and *McConaughy* June 13 (BP, LP). Late sparrow migrants included a White-throated Sparrow (LF) and a White-crowned Sparrow (LKM), both June 2 in *Scotts Bluff*, NE. Six "Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Juncos July 28 in

n.w. Nebraska (LKM) were a curious surprise as it is the "White-winged" race that breeds in this area. Orchard Orioles were hardly worth mentioning in the 1970s, but hardly findable now in c. and w. Oklahoma; 4 pairs were discovered in *Cleveland*, OK in late June (NK).

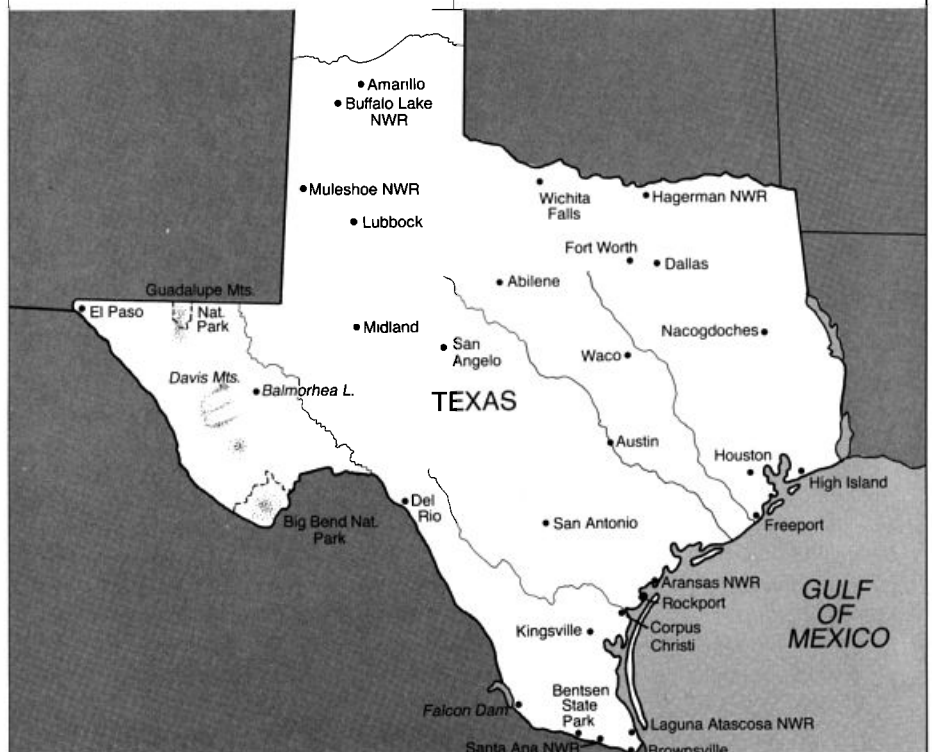
Cited observers (area editors boldfaced):
KANSAS: Ken Brunson, Bill Busby, Ted Cable, Bob Fisher, Chris Hobbs, Jerry Horak, Mike McHugh, **Loyd Moore**, John Northrup, Danielle O'Grady, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Scott Seltman, Max Thompson, Bill Trell, Doug Wood. **NEBRASKA:** Bob Behrends (BBe), Isolde Cutshall, Larry Einemann, Laurence Falk, Marlin French, Joe Gubanyi, Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Jan Johnson, Alice Kenitz, Lucy Koenig, Larry K. Malone, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Lanny Randolph, Neal Ratzlaff, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, **W. Ross Silcock**. **OKLAHOMA :** Charles & Mary Brown, Vicki Byre, Bill Carrell, Marvin Davis, L. & J. Dickerson, Joseph A. Grzybowski, William Howe, Nathan Kuhnert, **Jo Loyd**, **Louis McGee**, **John G. Newell**, Mitchell Oliphant, Pat Seibert, Ron Shepperd (RSp), R. Sherry, Jack D. Tyler, Jeff Webster.

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Texas Region

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

With local exceptions, this was often referred to as a rather "normal" Texas summer. For the most part, June temperatures were nothing special (Hint: It is an annual ritual for Texans to complain about how hot June is after our pleasant May weather). July was substantially hotter, although there was much bemoaning a July perhaps hotter than average in most areas. Rainfall was highly variable even within local areas. In fact, the "local exceptions" compiled from our observers suggested that "spotty" was also an operative term for the season. In late May, the summer was ushered in at mid-Texas latitudes (*e.g.* Concho Valley and Austin) with heavy rains, hail, and tornadoes. At least in Austin, we know that the hail destroyed some nests of small passerines, yet the rains kept many small intermittent streams flowing for the next month and a half. At the north end of the state, Seyffert described a cool, wet June during which he had to "dodge wild weather" to complete his breeding bird surveys. Thunderstorms were in the



news in the western portions of north Texas: Extensive damage to man-made and natural systems resulted from high winds, heavy rain, huge hail, and tornadoes June 6–9 in *Childress* and *Cottle* eastward to *Grayson*. Despite detailed reports from McKee and others, our reporting network is so sparse in that area that we can only guess at the effects on breeding birds of such calamitous events. The most evident manifestation of such weather takes the form of distressed hordes of culvert-nesting swallows and phoebes hanging around wondering what to do next.

In deep south Texas, the severe drought continued through July, but tropical storm Dean brought rains in late July that greened up certain counties (e.g., *Duval* and *Jim Hogg*) while leaving other counties (such as *Nueces* and *San Patricio*) parched. Dean's gift of rain was offered in a whimsical mosaic over much of the eastern half of Texas, coming too late to improve habitat conditions for most of the nesting season but moistening the scenery for early southbound migrants. We recognized very little in the way of a direct ornithological fallout from the storm.

The early abundance of "post-breeding" waders such as Wood Storks, White Ibis, and other species was notable but inexplicable from our parochial perspective. The most-often mentioned avian trend was the almost universal paucity of our regular hummingbirds (e.g., Ruby-throated and Black-chinned). This phenomenon, while disappointing to feeder watchers, should probably not be of concern: In 1983, a curious lack of common birds at feeders startled observers all across central and east Texas in the summer (hummingbirds, as well as seedeaters and insectivorous species). After much detailed analysis and rigorous statistical crunching of climatic data, Sexton discovered that the uniqueness of the summer was its "normality." Temperatures and rainfall patterns were as close to long-term historical averages as they had come anytime in the previous 25 years. Although such a clear-cut case cannot be made for the hummingbird phenomenon of 1995, which manifested itself from El Paso to Waco and beyond, we nonetheless suggest that in many parts of the state our regular hummingbirds were simply satisfied by natural food resources, which were the result of a near-normal Texas summer.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains N.P.*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); S.S.W.T.P. (*South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee/Texas Ornithological Society*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The

following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Attwater, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Boggy, Brazoria, Hagerman, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Lost Maples, and Santa Ana.

Loons to Ibises

Single Com. Loons at Cooper L., *Delta*, June 26–July 1 (WS, MWh) and in *Harrison* July 28 (GLu) were unexpected; non-breeding Com. Loons are regular in small numbers on the coast, but inland records are rare. A pair of Pied-billed Grebes nested in *Tarrant* for the first breeding record there since 1989 (EW, m.ob.). Deepwater pelagic trips off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun*, continue to redefine our understanding of Texas seabirds. A June 24 trip encountered one Greater Shearwater, one Audubon's Shearwater, two Leach's Storm-Petrels, and 31 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels († ph., DP, ME, BF, GL, m.ob.). This represented the most Band-rumped ever seen in one day in Texas. Elsewhere, a single Band-rumped off Port Isabel July 1 († BM) added to our records of this species. Over 200 Am. White Pelicans summered at San Antonio's Mitchell L. (WS). There were 750 breeding pairs of Brown Pelicans on Sundown I., *Matagorda*, July 26 (BFr). A geometric increase in the numbers of breeding Brown Pelicans was evident on Little Pelican I., *Galveston*, where 200 nests were counted. The progression has been 0, 5, 12, and 100 nests in the previous 4 years (*vide* DB). Between June 18–24 there were 5 different sightings of a single Brown Pelican in various *El Paso* locations; this may have represented the same wandering individual or perhaps multiple birds (BJ, HB, C&KB, SW). Last summer's new nesting colonies of Double-crested Cormorants in *Hansford* and *Hudspeth* increased to 12 and 50 active nests respectfully (KS, TLJ, JHa, BZ). Elsewhere, an ad. Double-crested was feeding young July 11 at Toledo Bend Res., *Sabine* (CSh). Unusually large numbers of Neotropical Cormorants were noted on the Rio Grande in *Starr* with 600 birds seen June 10–July 8 (TB). To the north, an amazing 1600 Neotropics were at Choke Canyon, *McMullen*, June 11 (WS). Surprising was a single Neotropical Cormorant at Lubbock during June (PK). Unexpected in summer in n.c. Texas was a total of eight Anhingas at 3 locations between June 27–July 20 (EW, m.ob.). A pair of Am. Bitterns surprised observers June 7 at S.S.W.T.P. but no nesting behavior was seen (SK, GH). The same location hosted an amazing 6 nesting pairs of Least Bitterns July 4 (EW). A Tricolored Heron in *Lubbock* June 8 (PK) was only the 3rd ever reported in that region. A roost in *Gregg* July 20 contained 21,500 Cattle

Egrets, the most ever reported in that area (JDav, MD, DW). Cattle Egrets are increasing in numbers during the summer in the Panhandle and South Plains (KS). This season 30 were found nesting at *Lubbock* June 3 (CSt). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron June 24 (EK) at Rita Blanca L., *Hartley*, was out-of-place and out-of-season. White Ibis was more abundant than expected in n.e. and n.c. Texas, with 50–60 nests found June 25 in *Angelina-Nacogdoches* (CSh). The only Glossy Ibis reported was from *Calhoun*, where at least one of the birds reported there in the spring lingered until July 12 (PH). Two Roseate Spoonbills, unexpected in e. Texas, were found in *Navarro* (EW). A record-early Wood Stork was discovered in *Van Zandt* June 6 (RK); astonishing were 160 found in *Navarro* July 11–19 (EW, BV). Ten Wood Storks, present since April, remained through the period at Caddo L. (CSh, GLu). Elsewhere, Wood Storks were reported in above-normal numbers in more expected locations.

Waterfowl

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was far inland at *Bastrop* July 23 (BFr). A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at *Angelina* June 1–9 (NB, LD) and a pair in *Trinity* July 18 (CSh) were unexpected. Canada Goose has been found nesting in increasing numbers in the n.e. Panhandle (*vide* KS). One pair of Wood Ducks provided a rare breeding record for Brownsville (BM) and others were reported along the Rio Grande during June (TB). Two Wood Duck nest box projects in the Panhandle are proving successful: one in *Hemphill* (BR) and *Amarillo, Potter* (RW). Both programs are producing 40–60 young each summer. As usual, a wide variety of non-breeding ducks were noted at various locations around the state. Most notable was a Hooded Merganser in *Navarro* July 19 (EW). Hooded Mergansers have nested exceedingly rarely in Texas since 1977. Recent work by Rush and others has revealed many merganser nests in Wood Duck boxes in *Upshur*, n.e. Texas. Interestingly, most boxes with just merganser eggs were abandoned, while many mergansers have been reared by foster Wood Duck parents in other boxes. Three Masked Ducks were reported from Santa Ana N.W.R. through the period († ph., BM, SB, m.ob.).

Raptors

Despite only one known nesting locality in Texas (*Nacogdoches*), summering Ospreys were reported from *Bexar, McMullen, Nueces, Rains, and Starr*. Out-of-place was a Mississippi Kite at Austin June 17 (ML), >100 mi from the closest known nesting location. A N. Harrier lingered in *Armstrong*

into mid-June (PA); another was found July 2 in McLennan (BFR), providing an unusual mid-summer record. A rare summer record of Sharp-shinned Hawk was recorded with a bird in *Angelina* July 20 (NB). Cooper's Hawks were reported at Ft. Bliss July 14 (JS) and in *Starr* July 8 (TB) providing unusual summer records in those areas. A nesting Cooper's Hawk near Sherman Apr. 25 (KSn, m.ob.) gave *Grayson* its first breeding record. A late Com. Black-Hawk was spotted along the Rio Grande at Big Bend June 3 (MeW). A Harris' Hawk near Grapevine, *Tarrant*, provided a rare summer record for n. Texas (BN). Unexpected summer Broad-winged Hawks were reported from *Fannin* July 4 (MWh) and *Jefferson* June 19–30 (JW). Adding to the unprecedented flurry of recent reports of **Short-tailed Hawk** was a well-described light-morph in *Hays* June 6 (†JG). The Short-tailed Hawk at Lost Maples was last reported June 16. Unexpected in the e. Panhandle was a Ferruginous Hawk in *Ochiltree* June 8 (KS). A pair of Golden Eagles nested successfully in G.M.N.P. (*fide* JE). Freeman found an impressive concentration of 84 Crested Caracara feeding in *Bastrop* June 13. A pair of Aplomado Falcons from the reintroduction program were found tending a nest near Laguna Atascosa in May. A single chick was observed in early June. The chick fledged in late June providing the first documented successful nesting from this program. The Prairie Falcon reported from Palo Duro last season was also observed July 6 & 22 (KS, RS).

Prairie-Chickens to Shorebirds

No young Attwater's Greater Prairie-Chickens were found during the early July brood surveys (JH), further evidence of the spiraling decline of this subspecies. A Scaled Quail in *Throckmorton* June 18 was an unexpected record (KN), particularly interesting due to the rapid decline of the sp. on the South and Rolling Plains. Black Rails were seen or heard in *Calhoun* and *Matagorda* until July 10 (BO, PH). A King Rail, always rare in n.c. Texas, was observed sporadically at V.C.D.B., *Tarrant*, June 1–July 16 (JWS, EW, RR). A Purple Gallinule was in unfamiliar surroundings in the riparian woodland along the Rio Grande, *Starr*, July 8 (TB). A single Snowy Plover, apparently on territory, was at Choke Canyon, *McMullen*, through the period (WS, DMu). In n.c. Texas a Snowy Plover at Miller's Creek L., June 3 (KN) and Piping Plover at Hagerman July 2 (KH, LL) supplied rare summer records. Bryan noted that for the 3rd consecutive year Mt. Plovers failed to breed near Fort Davis. For the 2nd year no courtship was observed, no nests were found, and no birds were present on territory. Black-

necked Stilts had a good nesting season at S.S.W.T.P., with ≥ 27 chicks observed July 4 (EW). Nesting stilts also continued at Waco, with 2 pairs noted (FB). Two Upland Sandpipers heard calling 2 mi n. of Lubbock June 6 (ML) were either late migrants or possible local nesters. A late Whimbrel was at Abilene June 1 (LB). Up to 70 Marbled Godwits lingered through the season at Bolivar Flats (JW); this is a very high number for this rare summer straggler. Rick Spears, U.S.F.W.S., is censusing shorebirds at Brazoria, San Bernard, and Big Boggy. The census resulted in 11,072 shorebirds of 19 species in early July and 35,800 individuals of 23 species in late July. An Am. Woodcock at Edgewood June 29–July 14 (RK) was a surprising and very rare summer find.

Gulls to Terns

Providing the first inland nesting record for Texas, 2 small colonies of Laughing Gulls were found on small islands in L. Amistad, *Val Verde*, June 1–July 26 (ph. JW). Up to six Laughing Gulls were at Cooper L., June 1–14, where they now seem to be an uncommon, but regular, summer visitor (MWh).

An ad. Roseate Tern, currently not included on the Texas state list, was carefully described from Cooper L., *Delta*, June 25 (†MWh). This record is especially interesting following last summer's report from Oklahoma. Although not a sp. expected away

from the Atlantic coast, these 2 well-documented sight records are certainly intriguing. Like the Oklahoma record, the present bird could not be relocated, despite an intensive search. The record will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C.

Four juv. Forster's Terns were found at Choke Canyon July 29 (WS), a rare breeding record away from the coast. Inland nesting Least Terns included 15–20 pairs at L. Amistad (JW), 6 pairs at S.S.W.T.P. (EW, RR), and 2 pairs at Cooper L. (MWh). Other summer records of Least Terns without evidence of nesting included one at McNary Res., June 17 (JS), with others present all season at Imperial Res., *Pecos*, (BP) and Choke Canyon (WS). The June 24 deep-water pelagic off Port O'Connor produced three Bridled Terns (†DP *et al.*).

Doves to Nightjars

Further evidence of the northward expansion of White-winged Doves were two in Canyon June 4 (AS, MS) and the first documented nesting in Abilene (LB). A pair of Inca Doves nested in Borger, *Hutchinson*, in May and re-nested in July (CW, *fide* FC).

In an effort to better understand the status of Green Parakeets and Red-crowned Parrots in Texas, McKinney and others surveyed Brownsville and, to a lesser extent, other areas in the L.R.G.V. during July. The 3-week survey resulted in the documenta-



Green Violet-ear in Travis County, Texas, June 18, 1995. One of four in Texas during the season. Photograph/Greg W. Lisle.

tion of at least 170 Green Parakeets in Brownsville alone, including 28 nest sites (ph BM). Another result of this survey was the documentation of approximately 200 Red-crowned Parrots in Brownsville and at least 10 active nest sites. Information gathered from other L.R.G.V. locations suggests that ≥ 400 individuals of each sp. are currently present in far s. Texas. The numbers of these birds have been steadily increasing over the past 20 years. With the information provided by McKinney and others, considered in conjunction with previously available data, the T.B.R.C. has added both species to the official state list.

A Groove-billed Ani was at Ft. Bliss July 25–26 (BF, GN), providing only the 2nd record for *El Paso*. Groove-billed Anis were more common than normal in s. Texas, with nesting noted at the edge of the sp. range in *Victoria* (BB) and *Bexar* (WS). An Elf Owl was banded near San Angelo June 25 (DT, RD) in the same location as one banded last year. Two Com. Nighthawks were observed in Longview June 29 (DW) where the nesting status of this sp. is poorly known. The *Chordeiles* nighthawk in West L. Hills, *Travis*, mentioned in the spring report remained through the season. It was photographed, video-taped, and tape-recorded extensively. Efforts to identify the bird to species continue. Expect more information on this bird in our fall report.

Hummingbirds to Kingfishers

An unprecedented four Green Violet-ears visited Texas during the season. The Green Violet-ear in Corpus Christi from the spring report was seen sporadically until June 25 (*fide* GS), while other single birds were in n w *Travis* June 16–July 8 (JN, † ph., GL, B&JRi, m.ob.), Lost Maples July 5–6 († ph., RH), and McDade, *Bastrop*, July 12–30 (B&DC, † ph., B&JRi, m.ob.). The Broad-billed Hummingbird in *Llano* stayed the summer. A White-eared Hummingbird was described from Laguna Meadows, Big Bend, June 24 (†VE, BL). An imm. ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird was at San Antonio June 26–July 1 (LL, ph.), providing one of the few records e. of the Pecos. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was present in Lubbock June 24+ (CSt, DSt), supplying a rare summer occurrence for the South Plains. A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was found near San Angelo in late June (L&DB). Calliope Hummingbirds were reported to arrive later than usual in the Trans-Pecos, and seven birds were reported from the Panhandle and South Plains. The most interesting Calliope record was a male in Austin July 29–31 (PG). Unaccountable were single ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in Amarillo, *Potter*, June 5 (KS) and Lubbock June 16 (RE). Ringed

Kingfishers remained at least through July 2 at Park Chalk Bluff, *Uvalde* (*fide* ML). The recent rash of Green Kingfishers along the Rio Grande in w. Texas continued with a single bird discovered June 11 at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend (CV). Green Kingfishers continue to make a comeback in the Hill Country from the devastating freezes in the late 1980s; a single bird was found in *San Saba* July 31 (ML).

Flycatchers to Swallows

A migrant Gray Flycatcher was at Davis Mountains S.P., July 26 (KB). Tropical Kingbirds were found nesting at 6 L.R.G.V. locations, including one in *Hidalgo* providing a new county breeding record (TB). A great rarity for the Panhandle in summer was a Cassin's Kingbird at Buffalo L., July 30 (EK, RS). A Thick-billed Kingbird was at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend, July 30 († ph., VE, BZ). This individual provided the first well-documented Texas occurrence since 1991. Unfortunately, it could not be relocated after the initial discovery. Palmer commented on Cave Swallows utilizing every nesting area available including under eaves of buildings in Kingsville. Cave Swallows continued their eastward march with new nesting localities in *Lee*, *Milam*, and *Robertson* (BFR, BR).

Jays to Shrikes

A Blue Jay was unexpected in Aransas Pass June 15 (E&NA). Even on the heels of a mini jay invasion, the reports of Scrub Jays in central El Paso through July 15 were amazing; they normally don't arrive in these locations until mid-September (JS). Fish Crows continue to move W and are expanding their numbers in *Fannin* (MWh). A report of a pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers at Big Bend June 5 will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C. († DTh). The sp. has been reported from the Big Bend area on several occasions during the past 11 years, but has never been conclusively documented.

A family group of Mt. Bluebirds was discovered among W. Bluebirds in the Davis Mts., July 31 (BZ, KB, VE). The ♂ Mt. Bluebird was frequently observed interacting with the juveniles. The birds were in a pinyon-oak-juniper woodland at 5700 ft. This represents the first evidence of nesting for this sp. in Texas.

A singing Wood Thrush at Wichita Falls June 6 was extremely late and far west (DMc). The only Clay-colored Robin reported during the season was one at Santa Ana June 19 (†TB). Numbers of Curve-billed Thrashers in the Kingsville area seemed lower than in recent years (PP). Six Phainopeplas in urban EL Paso July 27 (BZ) were out-of-place, while ≤ 6 pairs and as

many as 15 young were along Cienega Cr., Big Bend S.P., *Presidio* in July (KB, DH). The 4-year drought may have driven these birds out of their normal montane habitats in search of food.

Vireos to Warblers

Bell's Vireos seem to be making a comeback in some areas of n.c. Texas: A pair was near Ladonia, *Fannin*, July 5 (MWh), an active nest was discovered at Cedar Hill S.P., June 26 (*fide* ML), and 7 territorial pairs were in *Delta* (MWh). In Midland, 2 pairs of Bell's Vireos were located. One pair fledged a single young June 13 and a 2nd nesting attempt failed due to cowbird parasitism (J&DMe). A singing Black-capped Vireo was found in Midland June 9 (J&DMe, m.ob.) providing the first local record since 1978. A very late and unexpected singing Solitary Vireo was discovered at Aransas Pass June 7–11 (E&NA). For the 4th consecutive year Warbling Vireos nested in Midland (J&DMe). A singing Yellow-green Vireo was tape-recorded on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, *Starr*, June 10 (TB). A ♀ Golden-cheeked Warbler was observed feeding a young juvenile on the very late date of July 11 (DS, m.ob.). An ad. ♂ Golden-cheeked Warbler visited a bird bath in *Bastrop* June 30 (BFR), providing a 4th county record but the first for an adult. A Black-and-white Warbler in *Crosby* July 19 was either late, early, or on sabbatical (ML). Southbound Louisiana Waterthrushes migrate through the state during July; however, one in Big Bend July 31 was far west (MF). The elusive Rufous-capped Warbler first found in April in *Uvalde* remained through the period (m.ob.). Frances Williams states that water from the Odessa Wastewater Treatment Plant flows down Midland Draw into *Midland*. The draw has become a cattail marsh where birders can hear Com. Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat in abundance all summer. She thinks that both sp. surely nest but that observers are reluctant to battle the hordes of mosquitos and thick mud to confirm nesting. A new summer bird for Palo Duro Canyon was a chortling Yellow-breasted Chat July 6 (KS).

Tanagers to Finches

Summer Tanager were observed in higher-than-average numbers in the e. half of n.c. Texas (*fide* RR). A first Indigo Bunting nest for *Potter* was at L. Meredith July 10 (KS). A Varied Bunting was reported s. of Riviera July 25 (*fide* TP); this sp. is rare and local on the South Texas Plains. Big Bend has had several summer records of Green-tailed Towhee, but breeding has never been established in that park. Another summer record of a single bird there, this one from Laguna

Meadows, was found June 24 (FR, VE). A Rufous-sided Towhee of the eastern ssp. was found singing June 14 near Tyler (CSh); subsequent visits did not locate the bird. There is a single 1914 nesting record for Texas of this subspecies. White-collared Seedeaters continue to be found in San Ygnacio and surrounding areas of *Zapata*. Grasshopper Sparrows were reported to have good nesting success near Hagerman (KH). A 2nd nesting site of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was discovered near Hart, *Castro*, June 28 (KS). To the south, an ad. ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was in e. *Starr* July 30 (GL), a very early date for the L.R.G.V. Large numbers of Orchard Orioles were reported from Santa Ana July 7 (*fide* TP), these birds probably represent very early migrants. Some observers have commented on an apparent decline of Altamira Orioles in the L.R.G.V. Brush found 22 complete nests along the Rio Grande, *Starr*, June 10, and 5 active nests at Santa Ana; however, these data do not confirm or deny any changes in the population. A singing Lesser Goldfinch was in *Starr*, where this sp. is considered rare, June 10 (TB). American Goldfinches, a rare and local nester in Texas, were discovered in *Hemphill* June 7 (KS) and *Fannin* June 18 & July 4 (MWh).

Undocumented Rarities

Two reports of rare or very rare species were received with insufficient or no documentation. Omitted from this column were reports of: Broad-billed & White-eared hummingbird (Davis Mtns).

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Idaho-Western Montana Region

DAN SVINGEN

Summer 1995 was wet and cool Region-wide, with scattered snow storms continuing into early June. Several observers expressed concern over the fate of this year's delayed nesting efforts, but little specific data were available.

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

Loons to Gulls

An out-of-season, imm. **Pacific Loon** was on Flathead L., *Lake*, MT July 17 (+D&LH), providing Montana's 6th record. An imm. Com. Loon was at Winchester Lake S.P., *Lewis*, ID June 23 (DNS), where an adult

