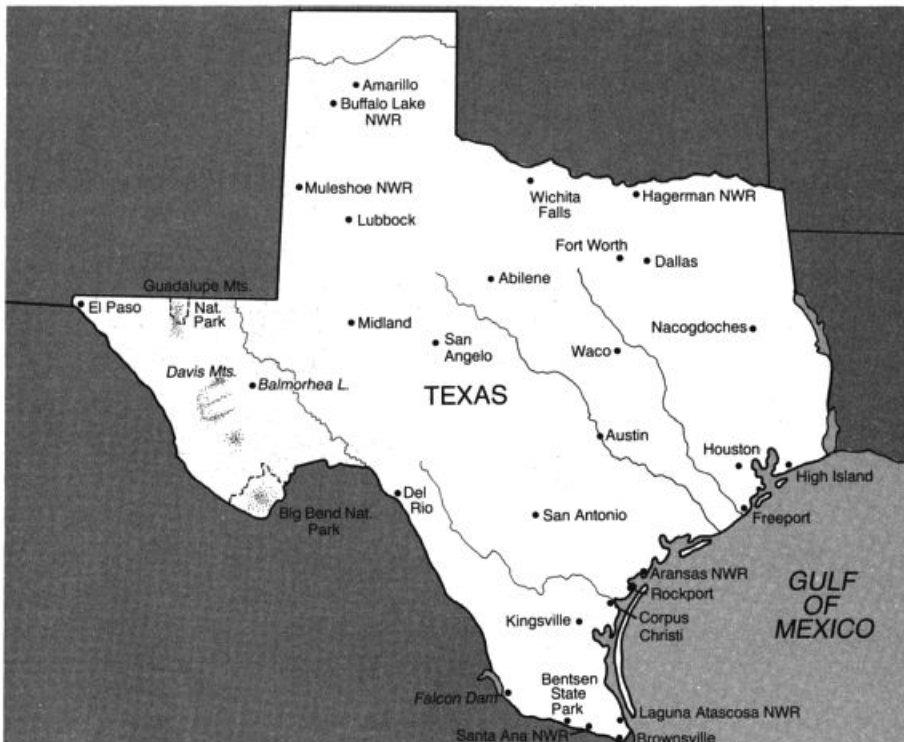


texas region



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

In many areas the wet spring gave way to a very dry summer, especially in parts of central Texas and on the Coastal Bend. The summer monsoon season kept far west Texas tolerably green and water levels in Panhandle playas up, but no tropical weather systems directly affected the Texas coast. Heron rookeries, waterfowl production, and other waterbirds received rave reviews, as did the nesting activity in grasslands in north and west Texas.

The lion's share of rarities came in two areas: From the dune line on the coast thence seaward, and far to the west beyond the Pecos River. For everyone else in between, it was the usual struggle to maintain an air of interest in the hottest and often dullest part of the year. This was reflected in some sparse reporting in central, east, and parts of north Texas.

With the continued efforts of Mark Elwonger and Dwight Peake to organize summer deepwater pelagic trips, we have moved on from the intellectual thrill of

“rewriting the book” on Texas pelagics to a much more laid-back, “ho-hum” attitude towards the routine offshore species (e.g., Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Audubon's Shearwater, and Bridled Tern). Nonetheless, the results of this season's two trips on June 28 and July 26 still provided a spark to spur further exploration during summer months. The latter trip, in fact, will clearly rank as the premier trip yet in Texas offshore waters, as the results below detail. The bird life was so (relatively) abundant and the species list so long that participants on that July afternoon were looking at one another and asking what other Texas pelagic species had they *not* seen yet! Although this continuing sustained visitation (and observer knowledge) has clearly contributed to our burgeoning pelagic database, the curious regional and global weather patterns of this summer perhaps also contributed to the abundance and variety encountered.

As that July trip was pulling into dock, the senior editors of this column were off to west Texas to sample the season there and enjoy some of the exciting finds being turned up by the increasingly productive Fort

Davis/Alpine cadre of observers. If you haven't got the word yet, the Davis Mountains have probably surpassed the Chisos (which we still love) as the hummingbird mecca of Texas, and are seriously challenging southeast Arizona in hummingbird diversity annually.

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*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection/Texas A&M University*); 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, Hagerman, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Sabal Palm, and Santa Ana.

LOONS TO IBISES

A Pacific Loon that stayed at least through June at Offat's Bayou in Galveston was only the 2nd summering Pacific for Texas. A Com. Loon was a rare summer find at L. Texoma July 10–11 (LL). Least Grebe breeding activity in the L.R.G.V. was minimal, with nesting evidence reported only at Santa Ana and in the McAllen area (TB, JJ). Pied-billed Grebes on nests and/or with young were at a number of Panhandle locations (KS), while a pair with two chicks at a temporary pond at Candelaria, *Presidio*, July 30 (GL, CS) added to the few Trans-Pecos nesting records of this species away from the El Paso area. Bryan has found Pied-billed nesting in the past near *Presidio* and near Ft. Davis occasionally during wet years. Eared Grebes were found nesting at more locations in the Panhandle than in any other year Seyffert could remember (e.g. *Armstrong, Carson, and Gray*; KS, PA). Eleven Clark's Grebes and three W. Grebes were present at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, June 27. On that date, Paton observed 2 family groups of Clark's; one pair with one chick, the other with two. These are the first non-hybrid breeding records for the genus in Texas. Both Clark's and Westerns were present in small numbers at L. Balmorhea throughout the summer, but nesting was not observed. A W. Grebe on Cactus L.,

Moore, June 28 (EK, RSc) represented one of only a few summer sightings in the Panhandle.

A freshly dead **Yellow-nosed Albatross** was found by Amos July 11 on the beach at San Jose I., *Aransas* (* to T.C.W.C.). This will represent the 3rd state record and one of very few for the Gulf of Mexico. One of the several exciting finds of the summer pelagic trips was a close encounter with a **Black-capped Petrel** on the July trip. The bird was viewed well by the stunned observers and was very well documented, probably to become Texas' 2nd record († ph., DPe, ME, PH et al.). A total of five Cory's Shearwaters were seen on the 2 pelagics, while a **Greater Shearwater** July 26 will represent the 7th state record (†PH, ME, RP, m.ob.). About 16 Audubon's Shearwaters were seen only on the July trip; this species is among a handful of pelagics formerly considered accidental in Texas, now routine at this season. This does not indicate an increased abundance of these birds, but reflects the increase of pelagic trips to deep water (60–100 mi offshore, beyond the continental shelf). A dead Audubon's was found on Padre I., *Kleberg*, July 21, presumed to be a casualty of the weather system associated with Hurricane *Danny* (A&MC, * to T.C.W.C.). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was found alive in the surf on Padre I., *Kleberg*, June 7; the bird died June 12 (TA, * to T.C.W.C.). Three Leach's were seen on the 2 pelagic trips (one in June, two in July). As expected, Band-rumped outnumbered Leach's considerably (at least 20 in June, 43 in July), and, once again, no Wilson's were encountered. Yet another interesting pelagic species found in the surf on Padre I., *Kleberg*, was an ad. **Red-billed Tropicbird**, this one picked up June 8 (*vide* TA). It died June 13 and will become Texas' 4th record and 3rd specimen.

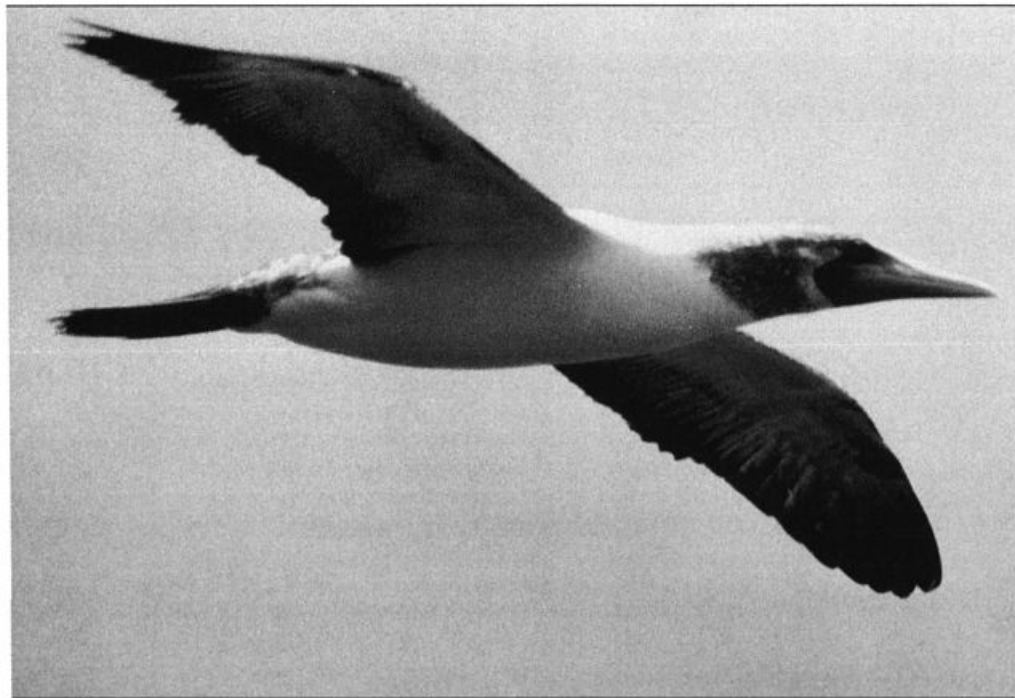
Occasionally Am. White Pelicans may be found in the Panhandle during the summer, but 78 on a playa lake in *Carson* June 12–13 (CM, MK et al.) was by far the largest assemblage reported there for this season. The cormorant rookery at McNary Res. fledged many young; Paton counted 30 young Double-cresteds and 20 Neotropics in June. Both species were present all summer on a wastewater-filled lake in *Midland* (*vide* FW). Double-crested again occupied their nesting site at Palo Duro L., *Hansford*; 13 nests were found June 7 (KS). In a July 16 census of several roosts of Magnificent Frigatebirds off Smith Pt., *Chambers*, Burkett tallied 2 males, 5 females, and 16 immatures. That is a rather specialized census



One of the two Cory's Shearwaters found on the pelagic trip off Port O'Connor, Texas, on June 28, 1997. Photograph/Alan Wormington



Pacific Loon at Galveston, Texas, on June 20, 1997. Probably a subadult bird, as judged by the condition of its plumage at this season, this individual furnished a rare summer record for Texas. Photograph/Alan Wormington



Now known to be one of the "standard" birds in the Gulf of Mexico in summer, this Masked Booby was observed on the pelagic trip off Port O'Connor, Texas, on June 28, 1997. Photograph/Alan Wormington

for the Texas coast.

The presence of ad. and imm. Least Bitterns strongly suggested that the species bred at Country Club L., Bryan, Brazos (KA), and the species also apparently bred at Santa Ana. Another Least Bittern was a rare find at S.S.W.T.P., July 27 (EW). By all accounts, herons, egrets, and ibis had great nesting success both in coastal areas and at inland rookeries. Cattle Egrets continued expanding their nesting locations in the Panhandle, with nesting observed in *Hansford*, *Potter*, and *Moore* (*fide* KS, EK). White Ibis nesting on the U.T.C. was termed "spectacular," with at least 20,000 pairs on N. Deer I. in *Galveston* raising 2-4 chicks per nest (WB). Most exciting was the first confirmation of nesting of **Glossy Ibis** in the state. Hockey and Freeman observed five Glossies on Sundown I., *Calhoun*, June 7, and one of them was carrying nesting material. After several attempts, they were able to watch an ad. Glossy feed two young June 25. Seyffert found White-faced Ibis nesting among Black-crowned Night-Herons and Cattle Egrets in *Hansford* July 2, and other ibis gave strong evidence of nesting at 2 other playas in the area that day. White-faced were also seen nesting in *Armstrong* in the Panhandle July 29 (JoHal, BiM, RSc). Seyffert had been aware of only 3 previous nesting events in the Panhandle prior to this year.

The abundant production of all our long-legged waders had ramifications

during post-nesting dispersal: A rare Snowy Egret was reported in *Armstrong* in the Panhandle July 20 (BiM, MM), and another was seen July 26 (TFer). Little Blue Herons and (naturally) White Ibis were commonly mentioned as exceeding normal counts in c. and n. Texas. Up to six Little Blues were in *Armstrong* July 22 to the end of the period (m.ob.). A Tricolored Heron at L. Waco June 12 & 15 was another rare inland find (FB). Also noteworthy was an imm. Reddish Egret at McNary Res. July 10-26 (JPa), a first for *Hudspeth*. There was also a new county record of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in *Hudspeth* (June 7 and July 12 at McNary Res.; JPu, SH) and a 2nd county record in *Pecos* (June 6 at Imperial Res.; BJP).

WATERFOWL

An unusual record for the summer in Austin was a Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Hornsby Bend July 20 (BF). Despite a decade of regular Muscovy Duck reports in the L.R.G.V., the species remains in fairly low numbers, and fairly localized in the Falcon Dam/Salineño area. Unusual Wood Duck reports included four at Rancho Santa Margarita, *Starr*, June 1 (BMc), and a hen with nine ducklings in the Panhandle at *Donley* July 7 (KS). Mallards are typically the most common nesting ducks in the Panhandle, but this season the wet conditions resulted in several other duck species nesting in unusual numbers. The more notable records included extremely large

numbers of successful Blue-winged Teal nestings, evidenced by 350 young birds in *Gray* (KS); large numbers of young were also reported from *Armstrong*, *Carson*, *Randall*, and *Castro* (EK, PA, KS, LN). Nine broods of N. Shovelers were reported from the above 4 counties; Seyffert knows of only 3 previous nesting records for shovelers in the Panhandle. Two Hooded Mergansers at Cooper L., *Delta*, June 5 (K&MWh) were very late; there are a few reports of nesting by this species in n.e. Texas. We received third-hand reports of "juv." Green-winged Teals and Hooded Mergansers in *Tarrant* and/or *Dallas* during June, with no further documentation; both would provide extraordinary nesting records for n.c. Texas.

RAPTORS

Summer Osprey reports included birds in *Jefferson*, *Calhoun*, *Starr*, *Gonzales*, *Travis*, and *Live Oak*; although we suspect Osprey may be nesting at some of these locales, no evidence has been found. A Mississippi Kite at Bentsen July 27 was early (SW). Rare in summer were 2 reports of N. Harrier in the Panhandle, one in *Lipscomb* June 8 and another in *Carson* June 24 (KS). Single Sharp-shinned Hawks in *Duval* July 3 (WS) and *Keene* July 11 (CE) were notable for summer. The nesting pair of Com. Black-Hawks at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend (MF) was not successful, but a pair in *Tom Green* raised one young (TM). Gray Hawks summered and apparently nested at Santa Ana, Bentsen, and at Rio Grande Village (Big Bend). A summering Red-shouldered Hawk at Santa Ana was quite unusual (TB). A Broad-winged Hawk at Choke Canyon Res., *Live Oak*, June 21 was well away from the species' known nesting range. Mark Lockwood saw a Zone-tailed Hawk at Falcon Dam on the unusual date of June 8, and a Zone-tailed nest was found on the *Kimble/Sutton* line (NJ).

An Am. Kestrel at Falcon Dam June 24 (BMc) and a pair elsewhere in *Starr* July 19 (JI) added to summer sightings for the L.R.G.V.; there was strong evidence of nest-tending activity at a utility pole by the latter pair. Three pairs of kestrels in the Waco area constituted one of the only known c. Texas nesting populations (*fide* EGW). A total of 108 Aplomado Falcons were released at 4 hacking sites at Laguna Atascosa and on Matagorda I. (*fide* TC). Raising some concern, there were no sightings of Prairie Falcons in their traditional nesting areas in the Big Bend region (BoM). By contrast, 10 of 21 traditional nesting sites for Peregrines in the same region were



In early June 1997 in far western Texas, this adult Arctic Tern furnished the (long-awaited) first fully confirmed record for the state.

Photograph/Bob Johnson

active; 8 of the 10 nests were successful, producing 17 young (BoM).

QUAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A pair of Gambel's Quail on the w. side of Big Bend June 2 (CN) was significant; the species occurs along the Rio Grande on each side of the park, but is rarely reported in the park. One-two Black Rails summered at the Birding Center in Port Aransas (A&MC), where they had not previously been noted at this season. A late Am. Golden-Plover was found at Hornsby Bend in Austin June 10 (BF). Habitat changes during the previous years' drought may have caused the observed decline of Snowy Plovers in the Midland area, but those present had chicks by June 30 (FW). Small numbers of non-breeding shorebirds can be encountered on the Texas coast any summer, but the numbers and variety are a bit unpredictable. This year, for example, at least 40 Semipalmated Plovers, 10 Greater Yellowlegs, and 130 Short-billed Dowitchers were at Port Aransas June 15 (A&MC), and at least 13 shorebird species were at Bolivar Flats and San Luis Pass June 23 (CS, GL). A Willet in Gray July 2 (KS) was unseasonal, as was a Spotted Sandpiper at Buffalo L., Randall, June 29 (KS). Early southbound Upland Sandpipers were detected at Granger L., Williamson, July 3 (PHart) and in Bastrop July 8 (BF). Of local interest was a Whimbrel at Hagerman July 21 (fide WM), a rare fall record. An early Long-billed Curlew flew over Santa Ana June 26 (TB).

Two records of southbound Hudsonian Godwits were remarkable: One was seen July 22-23 in Armstrong (only the 6th Panhandle record; EK, KS, BiMc), and five were seen at Mitchell L., Bexar, July 25 (MG).

An early inland record of Marbled Godwit was described at Lewisville L. Park, Denton, July 4-6 (LHa). Seven Ruddy Turnstones at Austin's Hornsby Bend June 4 represented a good collection (BF). A Sanderling at Hagerman July 1 (LL) was on the cusp of being either late northbound or early southbound. One ad. Short-billed Dowitcher in breeding plumage was at Ft. Bliss July 14; this species is a rare fall migrant in the El Paso area, with most records being of juveniles (BZ). An early Short-billed was at Cooper L., Delta, July 8-19 (K&MWh). An Am. Woodcock was at Martin Creek L., Rusk, July 13 (MD).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Three Pomarine Jaegers were seen and photographed on the pelagic trip off Port O'Connor July 26 (DPe, ME, m.ob.). Rare for the Trans-Pecos, an ad. Laughing Gull was at Tornillo Res., El Paso, July 3 (JPa). Unseasonal Franklin's Gull reports included singles at Cactus L. June 28 (EK, RSc) and at Hagerman June 22-24 (LL). A Herring Gull at L. Tawakoni July 4 (K&MWh) was out-of-season. Caspian Tern is a scarce inland migrant over much of Texas; two were at L. Lewisville, Denton, July 4 (LHa) and two others were at L. Tawakoni July 12 (MWh). Perhaps the greatest concentration of terns yet noted in the Trans-Pecos was encountered this season when Paton and others checked local reservoirs in the El Paso area. Six species were noted, including Black (two birds) at McNary June 5; Forster's (one) at McNary June 5 to at least July 10; an ad. Common at McNary June 27-July 3 (first

summer record for area); a Caspian July 5 in El Paso (JSp); and one-two Least Terns at all 3 El Paso area reservoirs June 6-July 15 (but no evidence of nesting; BZ).

Paton was rewarded for his hot season efforts by the discovery of an ad. alternate-plumaged Arctic Tern June 5-7, which was, thankfully, very well photographed and documented (ph., JPa, BJ). Following the photographed Spring 1997 report near Sea Rim, this is the first unquestionable Arctic Tern for Texas. After decades of not having any confirmed records, yet another Arctic Tern was nailed down on the July 26 pelagic trip off Port O'Connor. The latter was a first-summer bird and was extensively photographed and video-taped (ph. DPe, MG, TFen, † m.ob.).

In the Panhandle, Least Tern is normally confined to the e. tier of counties; this summer one was in Donley July 7 (KS). Least Terns nested at S.S.W.T.P. in June and July (EW, RR), but none of the many chicks fledged. Least terns were also seen at Hagerman and Cooper L. during the season (LL, MWh). More than 200 Bridled Terns were seen on the June 28 pelagic, and many more could have been counted had the boat followed more of the sargassum lines (fide BF). At least 12 Sooties were seen on the June trip, but the abundances were reversed on the July 26 pelagic when 230 Sooties and only three Bridleds were tallied (m.ob.). A single Black Tern in McAllen June 18 (TB) was unseasonal slightly inland from the coast; numbers of Blacks seemed exceptionally high at coastal locations in late June.



Formerly considered a rare summer visitor off the Texas coast, Bridled Tern is now proving to be regular at that season. The June 28, 1997, pelagic trip out of Port O'Connor turned up a remarkable 200 or more. This individual is in heavy molt, partway through replacing the flight feathers. Photograph/Alan Wormington

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

We are aware that Eur. Collared-Doves are a commonly available cage bird and that these birds are occasionally released or lost; however, the pattern of reports in Texas is also consistent with a rapidly invading population. Without detailed analyses of market availability, sales, and interviews with pet stores and bird buyers, it may be impossible to tease apart the relative contributions of the 2 potential sources to this population phenomenon. This season we have reports from Smith Pt. (*Chambers*), Galveston, w. *Harris*, Johnson City (*Blanco*), *Young*, and Canyon (*Randall*). While the *Blanco* record appears to be a new locality, doves have been reported for some time at the other sites. The species nested in *Randall* (and probably elsewhere).

A Black-billed Cuckoo at Santa Ana June 3 (TB) was extremely late. A pair of Elf Owls occupied a territory in Limpia Canyon in the Davis Mts. until at least mid-July (D&LH et al.). This species is regular but rare and local in the Davis Mts. After the previous 2 summers in which there were multiple reports of Green Violet-ears, we have only a single report, a lone bird in far east Texas at Rusk, *Henderson*, June 13-17 (ph., HG). The Davis Mts. are becoming well known for their hummingbird diversity in summer and fall. The rarest of 9 species reported in July there was a male **White-eared Hummingbird**, which showed up July 31 (KF) and remained into August (ph., KB, D&LH, m.ob.). Four different Lucifer Hummingbirds were in the Davis Mts. during the period (*vide* KB). Blue-throated Hummingbirds seemed a bit more numerous in the high Chisos during late July, with up to 10 noted in Boot Canyon July 29 (CS, GL). A rare summer Anna's Hummingbird made an appearance in Corpus Christi July 9 (J&VS). Other unusual hummingbird reports included single Calliopes in *Randall* July 22 (C&TFo) & 28 (different location) (MCa), and in *Travis* July 30 (*vide* LHo), and a Buff-bellied in *Helotes, Bexar*, June 1 (ph., RHu).

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

Late Olive-sided Flycatchers included singles at Santa Ana June 5 (TB) and at Hagerman June 10 (WM). Single W. Wood-Pewees at *Oldham* July 25 and *Buffalo L.* July 28 (KS) were considered early migrants. Of interest was a singing Alder Flycatcher at Santa Ana June 3 (TB); this species is known to be a late migrant, but there are few June records in Texas. Rare for summer were single Black Phoebes at *Falcon Dam*



In Pine Canyon, Big Bend National Park, this Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher furnished an overdue first record for the park on July 28, 1997. Photograph/Greg W. Lasley

June 24 (BMc), and at *Midland* June 26 (D&JMc). Rare evidence of nesting Brown-crested Flycatcher at Big Bend was provided by a pair with one full-grown young at *Johnson Ranch* July 28 (CS).

After being encountered during summer in Palo Duro Canyon for the last 5 years, nesting Great Crested Flycatcher was confirmed June 21 (EK, RSc, BiMc). Long overdue for Big Bend was a well-documented **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** in Pine Canyon July 28 († ph., GL, CS); the bird was seen again Aug. 10 († ph., BF, PH). This will provide only the 6th documented state record (2nd by photo). At least 9 pairs of Tropical Kingbirds were reported at 4 *Cameron* localities (BMc, OC et al.). A Couch's Kingbird near *Elgin, Bastrop*, July 19 (BF) was well n. of its typical haunts. Reports of Thick-billed Kingbird keep trickling in at Big Bend; this summer a single bird was reported at *Rio Grande Village* June 11 (†GC) & 17 (†JWin). A pair of W. Kingbirds was found nesting in *Jefferson* June 8, e. of typical range (KSt), while a pair of E. Kingbirds at *Midland* through the period was also unexpected (*vide* FW).

A Rose-throated Becard, the first documented summer record since 1976, showed up at Santa Ana July 30 (†TB) and stayed at least through Aug. 18 (ph., DJ). A truly outstanding find was a nesting pair of Tree Swallows at *Gene Howe W.M.A., Hemphill*. The pair was first seen at a Wood Duck box in April, eggs were discovered May 17, and five young swallows fledged in late May or early June (RM), providing the first Panhandle nesting record. Cave Swallows in *Throckmorton* June 3 (KN) added a new county to the expanding range of this species.

JAYS TO WARBLERS

We received only one report of Brown Jays, five birds at *Rancho Santa Margarita* July 19 (JI). Unknown in the summer s. of the coast, a Carolina Chickadee was reported by several observers at *Sabal Palm* throughout July (*vide* BMc). A White-breasted Nuthatch was present in *College Station* June 2-10 (MMa). A very late Swainson's Thrush was in *Grayson* June 24 (LL). Following the spring report at *Fronton*, two Clay-colored Robins were found there June 7-8 (†ML, RL). A pair of Long-billed Thrashers reappeared at *Monahans Draw, Midland*, after a 3-year absence, but nesting was not confirmed (JHe).

A single Am. Pipit at Santa Ana June 5 was late (TB). Two reports of late Cedar Waxwings in the L.R.G.V. in early June were remarkable (TB, ML). An ad. Bell's Vireo was seen feeding a juvenile at *Salineño* Aug. 3 (OC, BMc), providing a very rare nesting record there.

Black-capped Vireos gave heartening evidence of a good nesting season. In excess of 30 birds were recorded in Big Bend, their highest census ever (MP, JBa). Productivity of Black-capped in their Edwards Plateau nesting range was good to excellent (ML, CS), in contrast to last year's very poor breeding season. Meyer had a pair of Black-cappeds on a territory in *Montague* for the entire season, a first county record; the pair raised at least two young. Two Warbling Vireos were at *L. Waco* June 9-18 (FB, MB), a location not within their known nesting range. Single late Red-eyed Vireos were at *Aransas Pass* June 11 (E&NA) and at *Buffalo L.* June 29 (KS).

Two Virginia's Warblers were in the Chisos Mts. June 17 (JWin); although this

species is known to nest in the Davis and Guadalupe Mts., it had not been reported in summer from the Chisos. Single late Black-throated Green Warblers were at Falcon Dam June 7 (ML, RL) and in Tyler June 8 (ph., RB, CSh). More good news for a c. Texas endangered species was evidence that Golden-cheeked Warblers had a very productive season. While territory counts seemed locally to be slightly diminished (due to the dip in productivity during last year's drought), broods were conspicuous in the tow of adults in suitable habitat after early June (*vide* CS, ML).

Very rare in s. Texas during the summer were single Black-and-white Warblers at Aransas Pass July 22 (E&NA) and at Sabal Palm throughout July (*vide* BMc). Late northbound Am. Redstarts were found in Pottsboro June 12 (WM) and in *Bastrop* June 16 (BF).

PYRRHULOXIA TO FINCHES

There is a single nesting record for *Pyrrhuloxia* on the South Plains. This summer a single bird was found in *Crosby* June 5 (RL), and a pair was at a different *Crosby* location June 26 (ML). Totally unexpected was a report of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Galveston July 13 (JSt). Unaccountable was a Spotted Towhee at a Canyon, *Randall*, feeder July 13 (ID). Even more unusual was the report of a Spotted Towhee which spent the summer near Dripping Springs, *Hays*

SA One of the most astounding discoveries of this summer was a singing Botteri's Sparrow near Casa Piedra, *Presidio*. Adams was conducting a Breeding Bird Survey June 12 when he discovered the bird. Before this find, the only Texas records were of the *texana* race on the lower Texas coast. Returning to the site June 15 with Adams were Bryan, David & Linda Hedges, and Karges; these observers located a pair of birds. Photos and tape recordings by Bryan documented the find. Plumage characteristics suggest that the birds were of the *arizonae* or *botterii* race, the latter of which has not been reported from the United States to our knowledge. Whether or not sub-specific identification can be determined without a specimen remains unclear, but excellent tape recordings were obtained. Additional visits to the site did not document nesting until Aug. 1, when a single juvenile was observed with the pair of adults (KB, CS, GL).

(JGe, CEd). White-collared Seedeaters were reported at several locations in *Zapata* and *Webb* (m.ob.).

This was the summer of the Lark Bunting in the Panhandle. They could be found almost everywhere and in good numbers (KS). Nesting was confirmed near Dimmitt, *Castro*, July 15 (ph., KMo, JR), the southernmost nesting record ever in that area. Also abundant in the Panhandle were Grasshopper Sparrows; "in late summer they were common as fleas with many young strung along fence lines" (KS). Whittle was surprised by a Yellow-headed Blackbird near Sabine, *Jefferson*, July 27. From Midland, Williams reported the first breeding record of Bronzed Cowbirds when a fledgling was observed being fed by Orchard Orioles. Sexton and Lasley were surprised by a Cassin's Finch in Big Bend's Pine Canyon July 28; the bird was probably a holdover from the previous winter's invasion.

The stunning saga of Red Crossbills continued this season. Individuals remained in at least 3 e. Texas counties (*Newton*, *Angelina*, and *Nacogdoches*) through the period (RiS). Farther west, crossbills lingered in Abilene until June 17 (*vide* LB). On June 6, a streaked, begging juvenile provided evidence of the first local Abilene breeding record. In other areas of the state, crossbills lingered into July, but breeding could not be confirmed. Perhaps the most amazing of all was a juv. Red Crossbill feeding on sunflowers at San Antonio's Mitchell L. July 26 (BD).

CORRIGENDA

The Manx Shearwater reported Oct. 28, 1996, on a *Nueces* beach in *Field Notes* 51:83 was actually an Audubon's Shearwater, and it was found on a *Kleberg* beach (* to T.C.W.C.). A Bay-breasted Warbler was a rare find at Pace Bend Park, *Travis*, Nov. 9, 1996 (BR).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

In addition to the documented reports listed above, we received the following reports of Texas Review Species with insufficient or no documentation: three Yellow-green Vireos reported below Falcon Dam July 19, and one seen in *Cameron* June 28.

Cited observers (subregional editors in boldface): Peggy Acord, Mark Adams (MAD), Tony Amos, Keith Arnold, Nina & Eddie Arnold, Rick Atkinson, Jon Barlow (JBa), Nancy Bird, Lorie Black, **David Bradford** (U.T.C.: 18046 Green Hazel, Houston, TX 77084. email: brdfird@tenet.edu), Scott Brandes, June Broadstreet, Ray Brown, Tim Brush, **Kelly Bryan** (Trans-

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