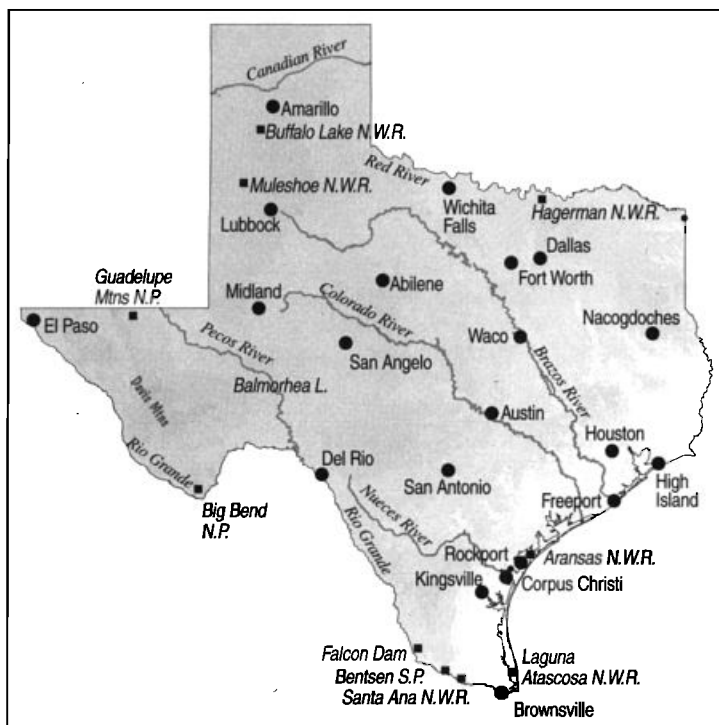


(CGr), Ruth Green, Robin Harding, Helen K. Hughson, Bill F. Huser, Jan Johnson, Joel G. Jorgensen, Clem N. Klaphake, Kathy Larson, Paul Lehman, Mark Orsag (MO_r), Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Bill Parker (BP_a), Lanny Randolph, Steve Van Sickle, **W. Ross Silcock**, John Sullivan (JSu), Leona Weed, Gertrude Wood, Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (N.O.U.). OKLAHOMA: Dave Arbour, **James W. Arterburn**, P. Beech, Jeff Cox, Melinda Droege, E. Edgar, Vic Fazio, Bonnie Gall, B&D Germany, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Berlin Heck, F. Hendershot, F&L Hickson, Bill Horn (BHo), George Kamp, Kenn Kaufman, L & G. Leslie, Jo Loyd, Jeri McMahon, Kurt Meisenzahl, Sharon Meisenzahl, Pat Seibert, Jerry Sister, S. Stoodley, Lou Truex, Mary Truex, Steve Webber.



Texas



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Some stark contrasts of climate played out across Texas this season. While Tropical Storm *Allison* deluged the southeast corner, Big Bend National Park was going through its second driest summer in the past 25 years. The northern Panhandle was quite green and moist into June, but almost all parts of central Texas from Abilene south to the Lower Rio Grande Valley were very dry. Many areas from Austin up to Amarillo suffered through July with excessive heat, setting records for the number of days over 100 degrees Fahrenheit by late summer. The breeding season was understandably beneficial for waterbirds and for most passerines in the wetter areas. With the exceptions of the drought-plagued Rio Grande corridor, earlier rains still allowed for a reasonable nesting effort for most birds.

Tropical Storm *Allison* developed quickly in the northern Gulf of Mexico in early June. After making landfall near Galveston on 5

June, rather than dissipating, it proceeded to wander back and forth over the Houston area for the next five days, dumping as much as 20–35 inches of rain and paralyzing Texas's largest city. Probably due to the storm's nearby point of origin and short offshore life span, a single Band-rumped Storm-Petrel found in Seabrook, Harris County on 6 June seems to have been the only overt storm-blown stray. The storm's legacy was expressed subsequently in an excellent breeding season for freshwater species such as Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, King Rail, Purple Gallinule, and Common Moorhen...along with a bumper crop of mosquitoes.

Abbreviations: L.R.G.V. (Lower Rio Grande Valley); S.W.T.P. (Southside Water Treatment Plant, *Dallas*); T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast). The following are shortened names for the respective local, county, state, or national parks and wildlife refuges, etc.: Alazan Bayou, Anahuac, Aransas, Balmorhea, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Brazoria, Buffalo Lake, Dolan Falls, Laguna Atascosa, Muleshoe, Palo Duro



This male Tropical Parula and its mate made an unsuccessful nesting attempt at Davis Mountains State Park, Jeff Davis County, Texas. Photograph by Greg Lasley.

Canyon, Richland Creek, Sabal Palm, Sabine Woods, San Bernard, Santa Ana.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Quite odd for the summer season, a breeding-plumaged Pacific Loon was picked up in a parking lot in San Antonio 17 Jun and brought to a veterinary hospital (GLi). The bird was treated and released the next day on a lake in nearby Boerne. A Western Grebe lingered in *Lamb* 5 Jun (CS), and 2 more were at Buffalo L., *Randall* 7–27 Jun (CS, KS), rare summer sightings in the High Plains. Good numbers of Clark's Grebes spent the season at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* for the 4th consecutive year, producing at least 8 young (JPa, MAd). Only 3–5 Western Grebes were present there, with no evidence of breeding. A pelagic trip off of S. Padre I., *Cameron* 18 Jul encountered one or possibly 2 Leach's Storm-Petrels and 9 Band-rumpeds (PHo, BMc). On a follow-up trip in the same area on 20 Jul, 21 Band-rumpeds were tallied (PHo). By far the best find of the 18 Jul pelagic trip was an imm. **Red-billed Tropicbird**; if accepted by the T.B.R.C., this would be about the 5th Texas record. A Brown Booby appeared in the Brownsville Ship Channel at S. Padre I., *Cameron* 30 Jun–16 Jul (S&GC, m. ob., ph. BMc); there was some question if the bird could be of the e. Pacific *brewsteri* race. Perhaps a few more American White Pelicans than normal stayed the summer at scattered locations; one on the Rio Grande downriver from Big Bend 2 Jun was a

little curious (MRy), and 80 up at Buffalo L. was a record setting number there (KS). Double-crested Cormorants nested in small numbers once again at Palo Duro Res., *Hansford* and at Buffalo L., but the few nests at the latter locality were abandoned by late Jun (KS). More significantly, four nests were discovered at Sam Rayburn Res., *San Augustine* 15 Jul (DW), a first confirmed effort in the county and reservoir. A single Anhinga circling with Wood Storks and White Ibis in *Bastrop* 8 Jul was unseasonal there (BFR). Many observers commented on the high numbers of Magnificent Frigatebirds hanging around Galveston Bay, sometimes numbering in the dozens.

An American Bittern at Alazan Bayou, *Nacogdoches* 24 Jun (JFa, CCr) provided a first Pineywoods summer report. Despite sweeping statements in most general references that the Least Bittern nests statewide, it remains a rare bird in the Panhandle, where suitable habitat is local and not easily accessible. A single bird was seen in *Collingsworth* 10 Jul (Bpi), and another was a nice find at San Solomon Cienega at Balmorhea 5 Jul (TJ, m. ob.). A Great Egret flying down Madera Canyon 4 Jun in the Davis Mts. was certainly out of place (KB). A successful breeding season for Reddish Egrets on the coast led to a bumper crop of juvs. dispersing inland; there was an interesting record at Granger L., *Williamson* 22 Jul (TF), and a 2nd *El Paso* record 18–31 Jul (†JZ, m. ob.). Also rare in w. Texas were Yellow-crowned

Night Herons at McNary Res. 7–23 Jul (JPa, JZ, MSc) and at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village Nature Trail 22 Jul (VE, BZ).

Symptomatic of the flood of long-legged waders inland were reports of White Ibis: a record 53 at Austin's Hornsby Bend 28 Jun (BFR); 200 at Fiberboard L., *Angelina* 2 Jul (GG, NB); and up to 80 at Chappell Hill, *Washington* in the latter half of Jul (DVo). A total of 31 Glossy Ibis was found at various *Calhoun* locations 30 Jul (BFR), and the species was encountered in small numbers in Beaumont and at Anahuac, but no nesting evidence was documented (ErC, JWh). A Glossy strayed to S.W.T.P. in Dallas 16 Jul (DH). Roseate Spoonbills wandered inland to *Bastrop*, *Burleson*, and *Freestone*, with one early bird at Richland Cr. in the latter county 30 May (DH, BG). The push of Wood Storks up into e. Texas was widely reported, with small numbers showing up as far inland as *Marion* and *Freestone* in the first few days of Jun. A Black Vulture away from the Rio Grande at Big Bend Ranch 31 Jul was unexpected (KB, JG, CE).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Over 15 species of waterfowl garnered attention as summering lingerers, but there were relatively few interesting strays or breeding records. A group of 3 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks resided at the Rio Bravo Wetland Park in El Paso from 28 May onward (JSp, m. ob.), only the 2nd county record. Three Muscovy Ducks were seen at Chapeño, *Starr* 10 Jun (MM), and Tim Brush and others found an estimated 6–8 Muscovies (along with a rare summer Wood Duck) on a river trip in that section the next day. A few pairs of Mallards bred at Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell* (RP), but reports of eclipse birds and some ducklings in *Freestone* and *Williamson* were confusing, as both Mallard and Mottled are rare possibilities here (KG, DDC, TF). A drake Cinnamon Teal in Hermann Park, *Harris* 4 Jun was late for the U.T.C. (LR). Exciting news came in the form of a report of a female **Masked Duck** with 8 downy young at Brazoria 19 Jun (JWi). Single Masked Ducks were at Sabal Palm 8–11 Jun (RG) and near Rockport 22–26 Jul (MM, MCo ph., † to T.B.R.C.).

Four Ospreys were reported in cen. and e. Texas in Jul away from areas where we normally encounter the species in summer; one pair nested at L. Livingston, *San Jacinto*. A few Swallow-tailed Kites were detected in *Liberty* and *Jasper* but within their known recent digs. An early migrant Swallow-tailed had made it to Laguna Atascosa by 20 Jul (SL). A White-tailed Kite in El Paso 11 Jun was the first county record since Oberholser collected the species

there in 1938 (JZ, MSc); delightfully, an ad. with 3 young was detected 12 & 25 Jun (JPa, BZ). Although it had previously been documented that post-breeding Bald Eagles from Texas moved well to the n. in the United States in summer, it was clear that at least a handful of ads and fledglings lingered at e. Texas reservoirs this year. The Davis Mts. hosted a nesting pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks in late Jun (KB et al.), a first confirmed record for the county. Cooper's Hawks were confirmed breeding in *Williamson*, and there were interesting sightings in *Callahan* se. of Abilene 4 Jun, in Amarillo 5 Jun, and in *Angelina* 26 Jun. A pair of Gray Hawks was seen occasionally in Limpia Canyon near Fort Davis from 30 Mar through the summer (*vide* KB); they were presumed to be nesting, but the site is on private land. Two pairs of Common Black-Hawks in the Davis Mts fledged single young, but the pair at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village lost their one nestling. Territorial pairs of Broad-winged Hawks were rarities at two *Bastrop* locations; fledglings were seen at the S.P. there in late Jul (BFr). A juv. Broad-winged in cen. Austin 16 Jul suggested an urban park breeding record (TE). A successful pair of Swainson's Hawks at Granger L., e. *Williamson* may have been a first confirmation for that area (TF, BFr). A Ferruginous Hawk hanging around *Carson* in the cen. Panhandle was s. of the species's known nesting range (JR, MoS). A Merlin in Alpine 23 Jun was a first summer record for *Brewster* (DWh), but a handful of Peregrine reports across the state in the last week of Jul is consistent with the known pattern of early southbound arrivals.

Nesting Purple Gallinules at two sites in *Angelina* were considered nice finds. Common Moorhens nest only at scattered localities in the Panhandle; ads. with chicks were found 5–29 Jul within the city limits of Amarillo (BPi, EK). Twenty-six Snowy Plovers at Indianola, *Calhoun* 30 Jul (BFr, PHo) and 57 Piping Plovers at Bolivar Flats 22 Jul (PB, WB) were significant concentrations at this season. Rather local but widespread inland in Texas as a breeder, up to 6 Black-necked Stilts in *Burleson* in Jul provided a first summer record for that region. Up to 500 non-nesting American Avocets made for an early concentration at Buffalo L. 8 Jul, no doubt driven there by disappearing playa lakes. There were early southbound Willets 15 Jul at Buffalo L. (BPi), 20 Jul at Stillhouse Hollow L. (GCr), and in *Briscoe* 28 Jul (m. ob.), all single birds. A rare nesting effort of Spotted Sandpipers was confirmed by an ad. with flightless young at Buffalo L. 2 Jul (EK, LKJ); 9 others were reported in the Panhandle in Jun and Jul. A

Long-billed Curlew found inland in *Waller* 4 Jun (FC), an extremely rare Hudsonian Godwit at Buffalo L. 7 Jun (CS), and a Sanderling at Rita Blanca L. 12 Jun (KS) were just a few of the many northbound shorebirds that lingered well into Jun (m. ob.); just a heartbeat later, several early southbound species were being reported, including a Long-billed Curlew that had arrived in Midland by 30 Jun (RMS) and Marbled Godwits in *Nueces* 1 Jul (MC). A Hudsonian Godwit that dropped into Brazoria 15 Jul–4 Aug (JO, RWe) was a rarity for the southbound side of the season, as was a White-rumped Sandpiper at the same location on the first date (JO).

JAEGERS THROUGH KINGFISHERS

A first for the High Plains was a Pomarine Jaeger in Lubbock 1–5 Jul (AF, ph. JB). June saw a number of late or out-of-place larids: Laughing Gulls were in *Freestone* 2 Jun and *Bastrop* 28 Jun; and Franklin's Gulls, Caspian, Forster's, and Black Terns were sprinkled around cen., w., and n. Texas. A few California Gulls were at McNary Res. and Ft. Hancock in Jun. The pelagic trip off S. Padre I. 18 Jul encountered only 3 Bridled and one Sooty Tern (PHo, BMc). The Black Skimmer colony at Dow Chemical in Freeport, *Brazoria* had its best nesting season since the late 1960s, with 725 fledged; an additional 400 unfledged young were present at the end of the period (JH, TT). Vagrant skimmers were at San Antonio's Mitchell L. 4 Jul (MH, WS) and at Austin's Hornsby Bend 10 Jul (PW).

Bailey, *Cherokee*, *Coke*, *Lipscomb*, and *Robertson* were filled in on the map of Eurasian Collared-Dove sightings. Common Ground-Doves were singing at San Bernard throughout the period (RWe, JO), and 3 were found in *Waller* 7 Jul (FC). Unexpected summer Groove-billed Anis were in Big Bend 30 Jun (GCl) & 22 Jul (VE, BZ) and at Anahuac 15 Jul (2nd summer U.T.C. record; DVe). Elf Owls were detected (and presumed nesting) in two locations in the Davis Mts. in Jun. A few Barred Owls and a handful of Chuck-will's-widows heard in *Donley* 30 May–16 Jun were rare finds for the Panhandle (JB, BPi). Three Chimney Swifts were in Brownsville 3 Jun, possible nesters; the breeding status of this species is poorly understood in the L.R.G.V. (BMc). A Green Violet-ear appeared at Volente, *Travis* for the 2nd year in a row 19 Jun–16 Jul (AS, ByS, m. ob.). One of the season's most extraordinary finds was the ad. male **Costa's Hummingbird** that visited a feeder in the Davis Mts. about 8 mi nw. of Ft. Davis, *Jeff Davis* 10 Jun+ (+V&NR, ML, W&JC, m. ob.). This first county record is about the 9th for

Texas and a first "summer" record as well. A male Ringed Kingfisher at L. Bastrop 8 Jul may have been one of the birds reported a few mi away earlier in the year (BFr). A Green Kingfisher on the Brazos R. in *Washington* 19–20 Jun was extralimital (DVo).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS

An extremely out-of-range **Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet** was discovered 28 Jul at Cibolo Cr. Ranch in *Presidio* (†BZ, VE). This is the first Trans-Pecos record of this species, the first outside of deep s. Texas. Its location so far to the w. caused speculation that it might actually be from a w. Mexico population, analogous to occurrences of Ruddy Ground-Dove in that area of Texas. An Eastern Wood-Pewee was identified at Palo Duro Canyon 5 Jul (EK et al.), an area where neither wood-pewee species is known to nest. Multiple Dusky Flycatchers were again noted on territory near the summit of Mt. Livermore in the Davis Mts., and the pair of Buff-breasted Flycatchers on that preserve made two nesting attempts (KB, m. ob.). A Black Phoebe at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 24 Jun was odd (RKA). Eastern Phoebe nested out of range in *Gonzales* and *Brazos*, and a pair nested for the first time within Amarillo. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers nested successfully in Jun at Muleshoe (m. ob.); not to be outdone, a male Vermilion was displaying even farther n. at Palo Duro Res., *Hansford* 5 Jun (KS). There were reports of 3 Dusky-capped Flycatchers at three locations in the Chisos Mts. of Big Bend 6–22 Jun (m. ob.); unlike last year, no nesting activity was noted. Another Dusky-capped was in the high country of Davis Mts. Preserve 4 Jul (KB et al.). The extralimital Great Kiskadees at Baytown were seen as late as 16 Jul, but nesting was never confirmed (DSa, DD). Even farther astray was a single Great Kiskadee observed 12 & 18 Jun in Chappell Hill, *Washington*, and 2 birds there in late Aug (MAG), providing a first for the Central Brazos Valley. Tropical Kingbirds nested for the 6th year in a row at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground (RiW, m. ob.); fledglings were noted there 7 Jul (MAd). A Couch's Kingbird at Sabine Woods, *Chambers* 10 Jun is one of few summer records for the U.T.C. (JWh). There were multiple Cassin's Kingbirds in *Hudspeth* in early Jun, including a nesting pair 30 mi n. of Sierra Blanca (JPa) and birds at unusual low desert locations.

Finding Bell's Vireos in the Panhandle in summer is always newsworthy. Eight singing Bell's were found in *Donley* 30 May–3 Jun (JB), and another was at Muleshoe 5 Jun (CS), a fledgling was noted at the latter locality 17 Jun (JB). It was also nice to hear of successful nest-

ing of Bell's in e. Texas in *Henderson* (GLu, DW) In a week-long survey, Maresh found 7 male, 3 female, and 2 nestling Black-capped Vireos in the Chisos Mts. area of Big Bend. A pair of Black-capped on territory in c. *Concho* 9 Jun provided a long-overdue county record (CS) Of note was an unseasonable Plumbeous Vireo in Midland 3 Jul (DHu, m. ob.). A pair of Warbling Vireos on territory in e. *Travis* 22 May–19 Jun and another singing male in nearby *Bastrop* 18–19 Jun were unprecedented for the Austin area (BFR). Another Warbling Vireo was out of place at Big Bend Ranch 31 Jul (KB, JG, CE). One to 2 Yellow-green Vireos were reported periodically through the summer at Sabal Palm (*vide* BMC). A Black-whiskered Vireo on w. Galveston I. 26 Jun–4 Jul provided a first summer record for Texas (ph. JSt). One Western Scrub-Jay from the winter invasion just didn't want to leave El Paso; it was still hanging around 15–16 Jun (JSp). A few of the invasive Pinyon Jays were still s. of Alpine 11 Jun (DO). Unusual summer Common Ravens were in *Carson* 16 Jun (EK, RSc, et al.; first county record) and *Oldham* 24 Jun (BPi).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

Despite the Jul heat, it was a very good nesting season for Purple Martins in the Panhandle (JR) By mid-Jul, a post-breeding mass of 100,000 martins had gathered at L. Livingston, *Polk* (GR), and another 50,000 had gathered on the Texas A&M Univ. campus in College Station (D&SWi, DPh). Single Tree Swallows lingered in *Hemphill*, *Williamson*, and *Bell* into late Jun, and nesting was suspected but not confirmed at all three locations. One or 2 Carolina Wrens were at Big Bend Ranch 13 Jun–31 Jul (m. ob.) and were suspected of nesting, the westernmost outpost for the species in Texas. A House Wren near Texline, *Dallam* 6–13 Jun was away from known breeding areas (CS, KS). One to 2 e. Bewick's Wrens were nice finds for ne. Texas 23 Jun–4 Jul in *Harrison* (ERy). Clay-colored Robins were confirmed nesting at Santa Ana by late Jul, and a trip down the Rio Grande between Roma and Rio Grande City encountered 10 Clay-colored (TBr). An American Robin at Rio Grande Village was a first Jun record for Big Bend (TPa). There was a smattering of late Jun and Jul records of Gray Catbirds on the coast as far s as Aransas, most believed to represent an early southbound movement. A Sage Thrasher in El Paso 18 Jul was an extremely early migrant (BZ, VE).

In their only known outpost away from the Chisos Mts., 2 Colima Warblers were found in the Davis Mts. Preserve 23 Jun (KB et al.) where one had been detected in May. A male

Northern Parula in w. El Paso 28 Jun was believed to be the same bird present since early May (JPa). The nesting pair of Tropical Parulas in Davis Mts. S.P. was last seen 10 Jul; a nesting effort in May was abandoned. Among the very latest or out-of-place warblers were the following: *Magnolia* at Midland 3 Jun (DHu), Black-throated Blues in *Brewster* 13 Jun (COK) and *Bastrop* 25 Jun (SM), Blackburnian in *Marion* 12 Jul (HB), and Blackpoll at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 16 Jun (JWh). Brush Freeman's tally of territorial warblers in *Bastrop* included one Yellow-throated, 5+ Swainson's, 20+ Kentucky, and 9+ Hooded; numbers like these hadn't been detected there in a decade. An apparently territorial MacGillivray's Warbler was found high in Davis Mts. Preserve late May–23 Jun (KB et al.). As the dome of high pressure and hot temperatures set up over Texas in early Jul, the usual suspects for early fall migrants began showing up: a Black-and-white Warbler at High I. 30 Jun was probably the earliest of all; by mid- to late Jul, Black-and-whites were scattered from Big Bend to the Panhandle and southward. Louisiana Waterthrushes were also found in late Jul from Buffalo L. down to Sabal Palm. Rarely reported in migration, a **Golden-cheeked Warbler** was described at Boot Spring in Big Bend 28 Jul (LL). A male Rufous-capped Warbler banded at Dolan Falls, *Val Verde* two years ago was recaptured 23 Jun, and a female was captured the next day (*vide* RD).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

An imm. male Scarlet Tanager was a delightful surprise in *Llano* 13 Jun (DB), but in the "wildly unexpected" category was a nesting pair of Western Tanagers with 4 fledglings 8 Jul in the Panhandle in *Bailey* (RSm)—"Just how far out of range is that?" quizzed Seyffert. A Black-throated Sparrow in *Garza* 1 Jun was noteworthy (AF). Symptomatic of the good breeding season in cen. and e. Texas, a juv. Grasshopper Sparrow was found at Alazan Bayou, *Nacogdoches* 17 Jul (JFa), where the species is rare and local. A Swamp Sparrow seen at High I. 24 Jun and heard again 30 Jun was only the 2nd summer U.T.C. report (DVe). Eking out an existence trapped in a grocery store, a White-crowned Sparrow "lingered" to 12 Jun in s. Austin (CSh); another White-crowned was in the wilds of w. *Edwards* 21 Jun (JM). Lark Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo and Painted Buntings, and Dickcissels all had banner breeding seasons in range. Most unusual were territorial Indigo Buntings in the Davis Mts. as high as 7500 ft elevation, and another in the Chisos Basin of Big Bend 5 Jun–9 Jul (MF). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso* 3 Jun was astray. In the Hill Country, a

Yellow-headed Blackbird near Comfort 14 Jul was perhaps southbound (SWie). There was a first *McLennan* record of Bronzed Cowbird 22 Jun and 2 Jul in China Spring (FBU) and the first nesting record of the species (a Jul fledgling) in Lubbock (AF). Two Hooded Orioles were studied carefully near Lockhart, *Caldwell* 4 Jun (SAS, WaR), probably a first Austin-area record (*vide* JHan). Rare and sporadic in the summer, a Red Crossbill was in Boot Canyon 22 Jun (JO). An especially late Pine Siskin was in *El Paso* 6–8 Jun. A few ad. American Goldfinches seen in Jun and Jul in and around Huntsville were also very interesting (BCh, BMu); there is no confirmed nesting in the Pineywoods (*vide* CSh).

ADDENDUM

In the previous winter column, I inadvertently overlooked a significant report of a first-winter **Iceland Gull** described by two observers at S.W.T.P., *Dallas* 4 Feb 2001 (BG, RR, † to T.B.R.C.).

CORRIGENDUM

On closer inspection of the video, a Red-necked Grebe reported in w. Texas at Imperial Res. 22 Dec 2000 appears to have been a Horned Grebe.

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Idaho-Western Montana



Owl and Clay-colored Sparrow in Idaho and Black-necked Stilt in western Montana. Just as interesting were rare bird highlights that included the Region's first Eastern Towhee and second Yellow-throated Warbler.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (American Falls Res., by American Falls, Idaho); Camas (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID); Lee Metcalf (Lee Metcalf N.W.R., Ravalli, MT); I.B.O. (Idaho Bird Observatory at Lucky Peak, near Boise, ID); Market L. (Market Lake W.M.A., Jefferson, ID).

LOONS THROUGH MURRELETS

A breeding-plumaged Pacific Loon that stayed in *Bonner*, ID until at least 16 Jun (LH, CS) provided a rare summer record. American White Pelicans were unusually plentiful in s Idaho, and good numbers were reported n. of typical range: 8 showed up in *Boundary*, ID 2 Jul (PC), one stopped in *Nez Perce*, ID 11–12 Jul (KC), and about 20 stayed in *Lake*, MT (DC) throughout the period. Waders also strayed n., including single Great Egrets near Whitefish, MT 5 Jun (BT) and at Lee Metcalf 9–27 Jul (WT), and a Green Heron at Lee Metcalf 4 Jul (CK). An apparent summering Snow Goose at A.F.R. 13 Jul (BD) was noteworthy. Harlequin Ducks made news in both states: one strayed to Coeur d'Alene L., *Kootenai*, ID 24 Jun (SL), and a female with hatchlings near Missoula, MT (MCo) 8 Jul provided the 2nd local breeding record in 30+ years. A Long-tailed Duck that showed up in *Flathead* 20–27 Jul (DC, BR) represented a 2nd summer record for Montana.

A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk in *Madison*, MT 2 Jun (MB, JP) was at least a month late

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The summer of 2001 brought normal to slightly above-normal temperatures and precipitation to the Region. Unfortunately, rainfall was poorly distributed, with storms tracking mainly through northern parts, leaving large areas of southern Idaho critically dry. A surprising snowstorm that hit western Montana in early to mid-June was the weath-

er event of the season, dumping up to 15 inches of wet snow, that caused considerable damage to trees and disrupted nesting birds across an extensive area. The summer rains did little to reverse the trend of declining lakes and reservoirs that was set in motion by last winter's deficient snowpack. The inevitable draw-down of these inadequately filled impoundments resulted in significant nest abandonment by waterbirds but provided expansive mudflats that attracted more than usual numbers of migrating shorebirds.

It was a very exciting summer, with new nesting records added for Northern Hawk