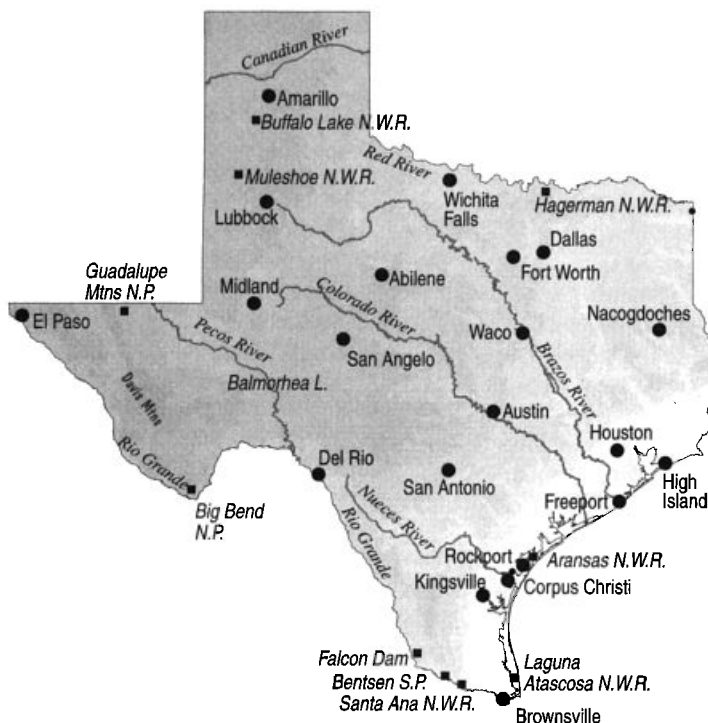


# Texas



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**T**he spring rains at Big Bend National Park continued through the summer and eventually spread through the remainder of the Trans-Pecos, providing at least temporary relief from the decade-long drought. Overall, the summer was cooler than normal, if you can call the mid-90s Fahrenheit cool. In many areas of the state, temperatures did not reach 100° F until well into July. The major weather event of the season, however, was the downpours that deluged south-central Texas. During a two-week period, Wiedenfeld recorded an unbelievable 109 cm near

Comfort, Kendall County—where the annual rainfall is about 81 cm. The resulting flooding pushed the Comal, Guadalupe, Medina, and San Marcos Rivers out of their banks and caused millions of dollars of property damage. Sekula estimated that the San Antonio River was over 3 km wide at Falls City, Karnes, at the height of the event.

This summer was one of the most exciting in many years as far as bird records are concerned. First nesting records for the state were established for two species in the Trans-Pecos (Greater Pewee and MacGillivray's Warbler), and one rarity after another was found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley during June. One of the highlights of this season was the discovery of multiple territorial male Yellow-green Vireos in the Valley. The number present eclipsed those documented during the previous decade. Astounding finds included a Yellow-faced Grassquit at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, a Common Redpoll in Galveston, and a Lawrence's Goldfinch at Guadalupe Mountains National Park. We are not sure which granivore is more enticing!

**Abbreviations:** T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast),

N S (National Seashore). The following are shortened names for the respective local, county, state, or national parks, and wildlife refuges, etc.: Alazan Bayou, Anahuac, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Buescher, Buffalo Lake, Matagorda Island, Packery Channel, Palo Duro Canyon, Quintana, Sabine Woods, San Bernard, Santa Ana, Sea Rim, and Trinity River

## LOONS THROUGH STORKS

A Pacific Loon was quite unexpected at L. Belton, *Bell* 25 Jun–2 Jul (†RPi et al.). Amazingly, the bird was relocated 31 Jul at nearby Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell* (GE). Common Loons are rare in summer along the coast and generally are in basic plumage, but an alternate-plumaged bird was along Padre Island N.S. 12 Jul (BS). More unexpected was a floundering Common Loon at Sheffield, *Pecos* 8 Jun. Freeman and Hockey transported it to Balmorhea L., *Reeves*, where they discovered another individual. Both birds were still present until at least 14 Jun. A calling Common Loon was at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson* 12 Jun (D&DD). A pair of Least Grebes with 5 young in Austin, *Travis* may have been a first county nesting record (SY).

The breeding population of *Aechmophorus* grebes at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* continues to thrive. Paton noted 143 individuals 7 Jun, 55 of them young of the year. Clark's Grebes outnumbered Westerns, although both were well represented. A deep-water pelagic trip was conducted out of Port Isabel, *Cameron* 24 Jul yielded 2 Cory's Shearwaters, as well as one Leach's (†EC) and 57 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (BMc, EC, m. ob.). A sick Northern Gannet was recovered from Surfside, *Brazoria* 5 Jul (*fide* DS). Nonbreeding American White Pelicans were widespread through cen. Texas, with concentrations of over 100 in a few locations during Jul. More noteworthy were singles at Midland 7 Jun (DK) and McNary Res. 3 Jun, the latter being joined by 18 birds 8 Jul (JPa). An inland Brown Pelican was at L. Calaveras, *Bexar* 1 Jun (HR). More noteworthy were birds farther w. at McNary Res. from 12-18 Jun (JPa) and L. Alan Henry, *Garza* 25 Jul (DL). Double-crested Cormorant colonies at Sam Rayburn Res., *San Augustine* (JF, DW) and Palo Duro Res., *Hansford* (KS) continue to be active. Double-crested Cormorants built three nests at Buffalo L., *Randall*, although none was successful; 45 individuals were present through the season (KS). An unusually large concentration of 100 Neotropic Cormorants was noted at Richland

Cr., *Freestone* 7 Jul (PB). This species was also noted in the Abilene area, 2 in *Taylor* and one in *Jones* (JaP). An impressive concentration of 75 Magnificent Frigatebirds was observed at Quintana, *Brazoria* 14 Jul (RW).

Least Bitterns were present through the period at L. Calaveras, where the species is probably a localized breeder (m. ob.). In the Panhandle and South Plains, Snowy Egrets are being seen with increasing frequency. This year, three pairs were discovered in a rookery near Idalou, *Lubbock*, for a first breeding record for that region (AF et al.). A wandering Little Blue Heron made its way to McNary Res. 26 Jul (JPa). Inland Reddish Egrets were at *Bastrop* 30 Jul (BFR) and Mitchell L., *Bexar* 31 Jul (D&LE). Nonbreeding Black-crowned Night-Herons were extremely plentiful in the Panhandle this season. A stunning concentration of 375 non-nesters summered at Buffalo L., and 90 were found on a treeless playa in *Deaf Smith* 24 Jun (KS). Single imm. Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 30 Jun (MF). White-faced Ibis summered at McNary Res. for the first time, with up to 20 during the season (JPa). Six Wood Storks were at Mitchell L. 14 Jun (HR) for an early record for an inland location.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

An apparently healthy Greater White-fronted Goose summered near Abilene in *Jones* (JaP). Unexpected were 3 Cinnamon Teal, 2 males and a female, in *Jones* 15-18 Jul (JaP). An interesting concentration of 86 Redheads was found near New Deal, *Lubbock* 26 Jul (RK). The 2 Masked Ducks found during the spring at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* remained until 22 Jul (†m. ob.). A female dark-morph Hook-billed Kite was paired with a light-morph male at Bentsen, raising 2 light-morph young (BC), providing a first breeding record in the U.S. involving a dark-morph (cf. *N. A. B.* 56: 260-262). A Swallow-tailed Kite in the Old Sabine Bottom W.M.A., *Smith* 12 Jun was well n. of the known current breeding population (VA). Two White-tailed Kites at White River L., *Crosby* 15 Jun (m. ob.) provided the 3rd record for the South Plains. A pair of Mississippi Kites fledged 2 young near Bastrop, *Bastrop*, for an unexpected first county breeding record and the first in s.-cen. Texas since 1902 (*fide* TF). Other Mississippi Kites in this area included one at Round Rock, *Williamson* 8-11 Jul (TF) and up to 3 at Salado, *Bell* 8-21 Jul (RPi). Scattered Northern Harriers were noted in the Panhandle southward through the Rolling Plains during the season. Quite rare

was a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Afton, *Dickens* 13 Jul (AF). An ad. Cooper's Hawk was in upper Palo Duro Canyon, *Randall* 21 & 28 Jun in an area with appropriate breeding habitat (KS). This species has not been reported breeding in the Panhandle since 1954. At least one Gray Hawk spent the summer in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* (m. ob.), and the pair present along Limpia Cr. near Fort Davis reported during the spring remained through the summer (KBr et al.). A well-documented light-morph Short-tailed Hawk was at Santa Ana from 31 May—31 Jul+ (†, ph., m. ob.). Another light-morph individual was documented at the Yturria tract of the Lower Rio Grande N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 8 Jul (†JA). These represent the 14th and 15th documented records for the state. Spectacular was a flock of 250+ subad. Swainson's Hawks in *Karnes* from 25 Jun—2 Jul (WS) where they fed on the abundant grasshoppers. A Zone-tailed Hawk was just n. of the normal breeding range in *Mason* 25 Jun (DF, BoF). More unexpected was a subad. Zone-tailed Hawk at Santa Ana 23 Jun (BC et al.).

**Aplomado Falcons** were released at two locations in the Trans-Pecos for the first time, with 24 hacked in *Jeff Davis* and 12 in *Presidio* (JR). What in the world were Prairie Falcons doing in the e. Panhandle and South Plains this summer? Singles were in *Roberts* 3 Jun (KS), *Hansford* 7 Jun (KS), *Terry* 19 Jul (AA), and *Lubbock* 27 Jul (TM, CR). Unexpected midsummer records of Peregrine Falcons came from North Padre L., *Kleberg* 3 Jul (BS) and Buffalo L. 23 Jul (KS). Although not known to nest in the Davis Mountains, a pair of Peregrines was at the Davis Mountains Preserve 9 Jun (BFR, PH).

## PRAIRIE-CHICKENS THROUGH TERNS

Seyffert was surprised to hear a booming Lesser Prairie-Chicken in *Lipscomb* 6 Jun, which was well away from any known breeding locality. Very rare in summer, an ad Sora was found at Richland Cr., *Freestone* 13 Jul (CA). A rare event was 2 Sandhill Cranes summering at Mound L., *Terry* (AA). A late migrant American Golden-Plover was noted in *Jones* 4 Jun (JaP). With water present in Buffalo L., Snowy Plovers were noted in early Jul, suggesting possible nesting (KS). This species successfully nested in *Jones*, where they are very local (JaP). An impressive count of 248 Wilson's Plovers was made on Padre I., *Kenedy* and *Willacy* 31 Jul (BS). The last time Mountain Plovers were reported during the summer in the Panhandle was 1986, but this season one was found s. of Dalhart, *Hartley* 9

Jun and 2 others e. of Texline, *Dallam* 13 Jun (KS).

Up to 10 Whimbrels were noted at Bolivar, *Galveston* late in Jul (CTL); this species is a rare summer visitor along the coast. Fall Hudsonian Godwits are always noteworthy: this year, one was at Bolivar Flats 28 Jul (MA). Three Red Knots in worn basic plumage were at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* 14 Jul (RW) and may have summered locally. Late Pectoral Sandpipers included 4 at Mitchell L. (WS) 16 Jun and 5 at Brazoria N.W.R. on the same date (RW). A Dunlin in Midland in late Jul (DK) made for a nice local record. Four alternate-plumaged Stilt Sandpipers at Brazoria N.W.R. 16 Jun could have been either heading n. or s. (RW). Outside the normal migration window were 2 Wilson's Phalaropes at Brazoria N.W.R. 17 Jun (RW).

Very rare in summer, a Pomarine Jaeger was on Padre I. 13 Jun (BS). Lingered Franklin's Gulls were at Midland 8 Jun (DK) and Granger L., *Williamson* 27 Jun (TF). California Gulls have become an annual visitor to the El Paso area. This season, a second-year bird was at McNary Res. 3 Jun—20 Jul and 2 ads. were there 8 Jul (JPa). A medium-sized tern was photographed at Bolivar 6 Jul (CTL) and raised speculation that it might be an Elegant, but the photographs were inconclusive. A second-year Common Tern made an unexpected visit to Mitchell L., *Bexar* 15 Jun (D&LE). The 24 Jul pelagic trip out of Port Isabel also tallied 48 Bridled and 77 Sooty Terns (BMc et al.). Another unexpected summer visitor was a Black Tern at Junction, *Kimble* 3 Jul (BL).

### DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

White-winged Doves continue to increase in the e. third of the state; one in Nacogdoches, *Nacogdoches* 4 Jul provided a first summer record for the Pineywoods (JF). Very unexpected in the desert, a Groove-billed Ani was at Panther Junction, Big Bend, *Brewster* 29 Jul (KBe, MF). Providing further evidence of the presence and possible breeding of Chuckwill's-widow in the e. Panhandle was the count of 4 in *Donley* 6 Jul (BP et al.). Another was unexpected 12.8 km s. of Yorktown, *DeWitt* 13 Jul (DM).

A female or imm. male White-eared Hummingbird was at Franklin Mountains S P., *El Paso* 30 Jun (†BBe), and an imm. male was at Davis Mts. Resort, *Jeff Davis* 20 Jun (†, ph., M&ME). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds on the periphery of the breeding range were at L. Jackson, *Brazoria* 1 Jun—5 Jul (B&MC, CBr) and Seguin, *Guadalupe* 1 Jul (*fide* GS). The **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** present

in n. *Presidio* in late May remained until 6 Jun (*fide* KBr). Extraordinarily early migrant Calliope Hummingbirds were noted in Amarillo, *Randall* 25 (RSc) & 27 Jun (BP) and at Spring Branch, *Comal* 25 Jun (LL). Adding to the very early hummingbird migration was a male Rufous Hummingbird in San Antonio, *Bexar* 24 Jun (MS). An ad. male Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird with an apparently all-green back near Abilene, *Taylor* 13 Jul led Packer to suspect it could be an Allen's. Two Green Kingfishers were sporadically seen at Rio Grande Village during the season (MF et al.) A Red-bellied Woodpecker in Lubbock 23 Jul (JB) was well w. of its breeding range. A Northern Flicker was out of place at Mitchell L. 8 Jul (CH)

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH JAYS

A singing Olive-sided Flycatcher on the Davis Mountains Preserve 19 Jun (KBr, ME) provided the first mid-Jun record there since 1991. A very early Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported from Galveston I. 29 Jul (JSt). Extraordinary were the 3 **Greater Pewees** discovered in the Davis Mountains Preserve 13 Jun (†BFr, PH, EC). Further investigations revealed an active nest 9 Jul (†, ph. KBr et al.), providing a first nesting record for the state. **Buff-breasted Flycatchers** returned to Madera Canyon on the Davis Mountains Preserve for the 4th consecutive year. A pair was located in the area occupied in previous years 9 Jun (†BFr, PH, EC) and a nest was discovered 1 Jul (KBr). Monitoring of the nest revealed 3 nestlings 21 Jul. A Black Phoebe at Dickens, *Dickens* 13 Jul (AF, AH) provided a first Jul record for the South Plains. Eastern Phoebes are rare nesters in the Panhandle and South Plains, and this year found nesting pairs at Palo Duro Canyon, *Randall* and at Dickens. The pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers found during the spring at Boot Spring in the Chisos Mountains, *Brewster* remained through the period (m. ob.). A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers was at Webberville Park, *Travis* 3 Jun—31 Jul, providing a first county record (m. ob.). Great Kiskadees made news along the San Marcos R., *Caldwell* 23 Jun (EH). Tropical Kingbirds were present not only at Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend but also at Rio Grande Village (*fide* MF). The Couch's Kingbirds noted in the spring at Webberville Park, *Travis* remained until 5 Jul (m. ob.). A pair of Couch's Kingbird was also noted at Gonzales, *Gonzales* 9 Jul (BFr). A Cassin's Kingbird was near Texline, *Dallam* 13 Jun (KS); although the species nests only 16 km away in Clayton, New Mexico, this species is

**SA** Since 1999, a small number of territorial male *Vermivora* warblers have been monitored in the vicinity of Mount Livermore on the Davis Mountains Preserve. Some have sung songs similar to those of Colima Warblers, whereas others seemed to be intermediate between Colima and Virginia's Warblers. During the 2002 survey, 5 such birds were discovered between 11 and 19 Jun and were generally thought to be Colimas based on song and from visual inspection. On 12 Jul, Bryan, Hedges, Kennedy, and Robinson were able to capture 2 of these individuals for a more critical examination. The first captured bird sang a Colima-like song, but in-the-hand measurements proved that it was a Virginia's. The other individual had maintained the same territory for the past three years and was thought to be a Colima as well. In-hand examination proved that this bird was a Virginia's also. Single territorial males present in 1999 and 2000 that sang typical Colima songs and appeared visually to be that species are the best candidates for solid Colima Warbler records from the Davis Mountains. However, the results of this investigation call into question all previous records of the species in the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains.

not known to breed in the Panhandle. The female Rose-throated Becard discovered at Santa Ana in the spring remained through the season.

Startling was a singing White-eyed Vireo at Palo Duro Canyon 6 Jun (RSc et al.); this bird was in the same location as one seen during Apr. Nice finds were the 6 Bell's Vireos in *Donley* 29 Jun (EK et al.) and another in Lubbock 7 Jul (AF). Freeman confirmed a nesting record for Warbling Vireos from *Travis* when he observed a pair feeding a fledgling 2 Jul. Unfortunately, the fledgling was a Brown-headed Cowbird. Singing Warbling Vireos made very unexpected appearances on the South Plains and in the Panhandle: 3 were at different Lubbock area locations 1-9 Jun (m. ob.), and another was in Palo Duro Canyon 28 Jun (KS), providing a first summer record for the state park. A migrant Yellow-green Vireo was documented at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 1 Jun (†WS)

Multiple territorial male Yellow-green Vireos were present in the Lower Rio Grande Valley this summer. Singing males were at Sabal Palm, *Cameron* 4-15 Jun (†PH et al.), Weslaco, *Hidalgo* 5 Jul (†JA), Santa Ana 20-27 Jun (†MH et al.), and Bentsen, where 2-3 males were present through the season (†, m. ob.) This is the largest number of singing males found in the Lower Valley in at least the last 10 years. The 2 Tamaulipas Crows present in Brownsville in the spring remained until at least 11 Jul (m. ob.).

### SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A pair of Tree Swallows was discovered at Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell* 23 Jun (RPi). Pinkston returned 7 Jul to discover 2 juvs., suggesting that the species had nested locally. A pair of Northern Rough-winged Swallows with 4 fledglings was found using cavities on a World War II ship in *Orange* 17 Jun (RPe) providing a very rare UTC nesting record. An ad White-breasted Nuthatch with one fledgling in *Wheeler* 1 Jun (EK, RSc) was only the 3rd nesting record for the Panhandle. A Cactus Wren wandered e. to *DeWitt* 23 Jul (DM), a site where the species has not been recorded since 1984. A House Wren lingered until 1 Jun at Midland (m. ob.). Muschalek found 10 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, including nests with young, in a mesquite woodland in *DeWitt* 9 Jun, providing a new nesting record for the county. Amazingly, a Wood Thrush was heard singing at Santa Ana 20 Jun (BC, TB) Freeman had suspected that a robin that he had heard singing on several occasions over the previous year in Gonzales, *Gonzales* was a **Clay-colored Robin**. On 9 Jul, he was finally able to confirm his suspicions when he observed the bird. A Gray Catbird in El Paso 7 Jul was quite a surprise (JPa). A lingering Brown Thrasher was at High I., *Jefferson* 15 Jun (DV). Puzzling was an Orange-crowned Warbler at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on a late date of 8 Jun (WS). A late-migrating Yellow Warbler was on Galveston I. 16 Jun (JSt). More interesting were a singing male Yellow Warbler in Amarillo, *Randall* 14 Jun (KS) and another at White River L., *Crosby* 15 Jun (m. ob.) Startling was a singing Myrtle Warbler found at an abandoned farm house in *Deaf Smith* 14 Jun (KS). The farmhouse had only a few half-dead trees and was surrounded by much open grassland and cultivated fields. A Yellow-throated Warbler in nw. *Bexar* 5 Jun (*fide* GS) was away from any appropriate nesting habitat. To continue the list of unexpected warblers in nw. Texas this summer was an American Redstart at White River L., *Crosby* 15 Jun (AF). Other out-of-place

American Redstarts were in El Paso 4 Jun (JPa), on a private ranch in n. *Presidio* 6 Jun (KBR), and at McKittrick Canyon, *Culberson* 20 Jun (J&LW).

Male Prothonotary Warblers were found in two locations in the s. third of the state where nesting is not known. One was at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr* 6 Jul (JA), and the other was near Moulton, *Lavaca* 9 Jul (BFR). Inexplicable was a MacGillivray's Warbler in *Donley* 29 Jun (RSc). More exciting was the discovery of a lone male plus two pairs of **MacGillivray's Warblers** 12 Jun (KBr et al.) in the Davis Mountains Preserve. On 12 Jul, a pair was observed feeding young fledglings, providing Texas with its first nesting record. A Red-faced Warbler was present in the vicinity of Boot Spring, Big Bend 24 Jul+ (†JDo et al.). Although quite rare in recent years, at least 2 male Painted Redstarts were present in the Chisos Mountains, *Brewster* 22 Jul+ (G&NC et al.). Over seven pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats were discovered around White River L., *Crosby* 15 Jun (m. ob.). Four Yellow-breasted Chats were found in *Lubbock* 6 Jul, including a pair feeding young, for a first county nesting record. Single Yellow-breasted Chats were located in *Lynn* 20 Jul (BrB, RK) and Palo Duro Canyon 17 Jul (KS), the latter providing the 2nd summer record for that location.

### TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A territorial male Summer Tanager at the headquarters of the Davis Mountains Preserve was well above the normal elevational range of this species (*fide* KBr). Quite late was a male Western Tanager in *Lubbock* 8 Jun (AF). A very early fall migrant Western Tanager was in the Franklin Mts. 1 Jul (JPa). A White-collared Seedeater was seen and heard at Bentsen 22 Jun (D&LE), providing a rare sighting from *Hidalgo*. Perhaps the bird of the season (although there is some stiff competition yet) was a territorial male **Yellow-faced Grassquit** that took up residence along the Rio Grande Hiking Trail in Bentsen 8-29 Jun (†, ph. KN, RD, m. ob.), providing the 2nd record for Texas. This bird proceeded to build a nest, although it never attracted a female. This summer saw two *Zonotrichia* species linger to record-late dates. A Harris's Sparrow was found in Elgin, *Bastrop* 1 Jun (JL)—more than a month after this species typically departs. Late White-crowned Sparrows were noted across the state. Single individuals lingered in *Lubbock* to 3 Jun (AF) and Austin to 7 Jun (ML), but these were overshadowed by a singing male in Lampasas, *Lampasas* 19 Jun (DC)!

Two pairs of Indigo Buntings were present at Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend* during Jun (*fide* DH), which is s. of the normal breeding range. A wandering Indigo was on Galveston I. 16 Jun (JSt). Indigo Buntings made news in the Panhandle and South Plains as well Up to 11 birds, including fledglings, were at White River L., *Crosby* 15 Jun (m. ob.), and 2 territorial males were in a separate *Crosby* location 27 Jun (RL). Adults feeding young were discovered in *Lubbock* 6 Jul (AF) and 6+ singing male Indigos were in Palo Duro Canyon throughout the season, including one fledgling 3 Jul (KS). Varied Buntings wandered outside their normal range to El Paso 3 Jul (JPa), for a 3rd county record, and another was on a unit of the Lower Rio Grande Valley N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 8 Jul (JA)

A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Mitchell L. 21 Jul (HR) was an unexpected summer visitor. A rare summer occurrence was a male Brewer's Blackbird in *Lipscomb* 6 Jun (KS) Bronzed Cowbirds has apparently become established in the Lubbock area, with young tended by Northern Cardinals and Red-winged Blackbirds reported this season (m. ob.). A singing male Scott's Oriole was very unexpected near L. Alan Henry, *Garza* 30 Jun (BrB, RK). Stunning was a female **Common Redpoll** feeding in a Galveston backyard 18-19 Jun (ph. I&DB, †RW). This sighting closely follows a late spring record from *Cameron*, however, examination of photos showed that these birds were different individuals. Lesser Goldfinches continue to expand their range northward, with nesting reported from *Lubbock* 22 Jun (AF) and individuals in Amarillo and in *Gray* during the period. Astounding was an ad. male **Lawrence's Goldfinch** at Guadalupe Mountains N P, *Culberson* 5-7 Jun (†, ph., JW), providing a first summer record for the state. All previous state records have been associated with winter irruptions, with the latest date being 10 Mar. American Goldfinches made unexpected summer occurrences in the w. half of the state. A pair was in the lowlands of the Guadalupe Mts. 14 Jun (CH), one was in the Davis Mountains Resort 21-23 Jun (M&ME), and another was in *Lynn* 20 Jul (BrB, RK)

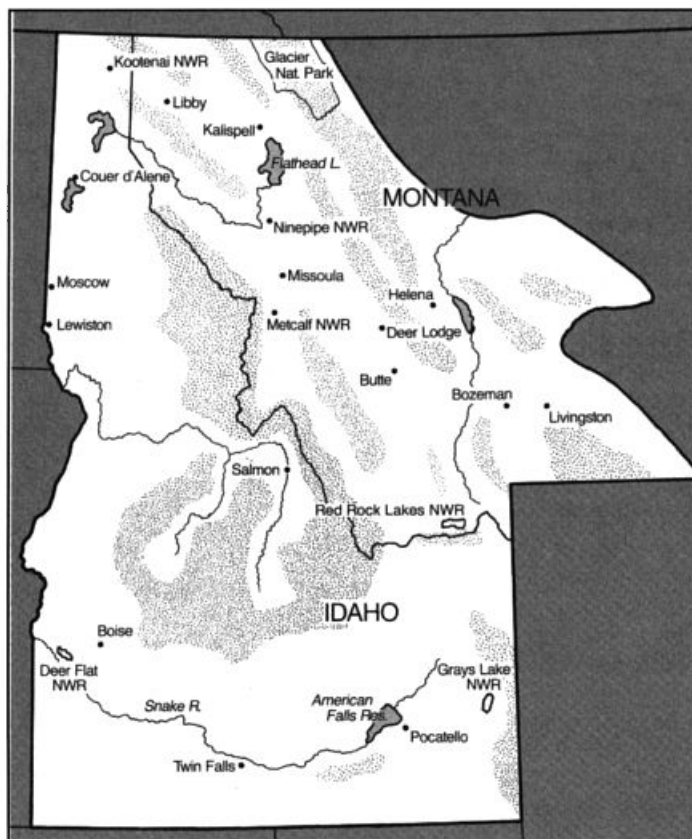
### UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

The following Texas Bird Records Review Species was reported without documentation: one Red-faced Warbler in Big Bend 29 Jun.

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As is often the case, stark contrasts in climate played out across the Region in the summer of 2002. Northern locations reported unseasonably cool and wet weather throughout June and early July. Not only did these adverse conditions delay migration, but they were also implicated in nest failures in west-central Montana. On the other hand, it was unusually warm and dry in southern Idaho and southwestern Montana. Irrigation drawdowns depleted many inadequately filled streams and reservoirs, leaving water-bird nests high and dry. All locations agreed that mid-July was unusually hot, and record-high temperatures soared into the triple digits for a week or more in some areas. Late July thunderstorms brought welcome relief to northern Idaho and western Montana but

failed to reach drought-stricken areas in southern Idaho and southwestern Montana

**Abbreviations:** Camas (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID); Latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana).

## GREBES THROUGH OWLS

Out-of-range Clark's Grebes showed up in *Kootenai*, ID 2 Jun (JW) and Three Forks, MT 12 Jun (EH, RW). Uncommon but not unexpected were American White Pelicans in *Lake*, MT (DC) and *Nez Perce*, ID (TG), but a flock of 20 in Somers, *Flathead*, MT 9 Jun (DC) was very unusual. Since there are no modern-day nesting records in nw. Montana, a nonbreeding pair of Trumpeter Swans that summered near Whitefish was especially interesting (JP). Two Long-tailed Ducks reported near Lewiston, ID 8 Jul (KC) provided a rare summer record. A pair of Merlins