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Texas



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For the past few years, it seems as though one region or another of Texas has been under the grip of some form of drought. That was certainly not the case during this summer, as almost all regions saw above-average precipitation. For the western half of the state, rainfall ranged from about average to above average and provided excellent nesting conditions for breeding passerines and well-above-average conditions for waterfowl and waders. In the central portion of the state, the rainfall amounts were bordering on excessive in many areas, resulting in the coolest and wettest summer on record. Many reservoirs that had been well below capacity are now full, and many locations had surpassed yearly rainfall totals by the end of July! This trend worsened farther east. Rainfall for the period as reported at Houston's Intercontinental Airport was 33 cm above normal. Record-setting rainfall was persistent throughout the upper coast during the month of June, with widespread flooding causing many birding locations to be inaccessible. Flooding lingered in some areas for the duration of the reporting period. Al-

though the extreme rains in June were desperately needed, birding and bird life were significantly impacted by the excessive rain and flooding. Many reports of washed out nests and nesting areas were received. Shorebird numbers were low due to lack of habitat. Farther south, Corpus Christi recorded 46 cm of rainfall in July alone, compared to a normal average amount of 5 cm for the month! Lake levels were at high marks, and freshwater ponds were mostly full. Flooding occurred in much of South Texas, and vast freshwater playays were formed. Nesting passerines seemed to thrive, and food sources were plentiful in upland habitats.

Two birds were in the running for the bird of the season—a Snail Kite near Port Isabel and a Common Redpoll on Bolivar Peninsula. The kite was just the third to be documented in the state, but who can explain the third *summer* record of Common Redpoll from Texas—or why all of them have been from coastal locations? Another surprising record was a Chuck-will's-widow, a first for the Trans-Pecos, which spent much of the period in the Davis Mountains.



Above-average rainfall made for abundant nesting habitat for waterfowl in the Panhandle, which resulted in nesting records of several species of ducks that are generally considered rare breeders in Texas. This female Gadwall with a total of nine ducklings (here 13 July 2007) represents only about the tenth documented breeding record of the species in the state. Other successful nesting attempts by this species were noted during the period. *Photograph by Bill Johnson.*

Finally, after almost 10 years on the job, Mel Cooksey is stepping down as the regional compiler for South Texas. His contribution to the column will be missed, and we certainly wish him success in whatever other endeavors he puts his energies towards.

WATERFOWL THROUGH ANHINGA

A pair of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks with 7-8 ducklings in Bell 27 Jul (RPi) provided the first evidence of breeding for the county. Summer geese included 4 Snows and 4 Ross's at Cactus Playa, Moore 24 Jun (BP) and a summering Cackling Goose at Arthur Storey Park in Houston, Harris (ph. JKe). Two Gadwall broods near Tulia, Swisher 13 Jul and three broods present at the same location 27 Jul (ph. BJ) were notable, as there are only about 10 nesting records for the state. A brood of 9 Northern Shovelers on a playa e. of Happy, Swisher (BJ) represented a very rare nesting record. Lingered Northern Pintails were seen near Angleton, Brazoria 8 Jun (CFr) and at Anahuac N.W.R., Chambers 7 Jul (DVe). A female Northern Pintail with several ducklings found at a pond in Kleberg 30 Jun (LJ) represents what may be the first breeding record for the Coastal Bend. Single drake Canvasbacks were seen at Tornillo Res., El Paso 4 Jun (BZ) and Fort Hancock Res., Hudspeth 15 Jun (JPa). Ring-necked Ducks rarely summer, so a male present all period at the Presidio, Presidio (ML) and another at Nelson

Farms on the Katy Prairie, Waller 4 Jul (BH) were notable.

Common Loons at unexpected locations included one picked up at the El Paso Airport, El Paso 1 Jun (*vide* JSp) and a lingering individual at Austin, Travis until 4 Jun (HR)



Chuck-will's-widows have been known to occur in Donley County in the eastern Panhandle of Texas for quite some time, but it was only in 2007 that nesting was finally documented. This nest (here 28 April) was located in the spring, and the young successfully fledged in the early summer. Photograph by Barrett Pierce.

Pied-billed Grebes nested at Granger L., Williamson, with an ad. on an active nest 28 Jun and a juv. present 16 Jul (TFe), and at Fort Stockton, Pecos, where three pairs with young were seen 21 Jul (ML). Masked Boobies seen from shore included an imm. along South Padre I., Cameron 5 Jul (BMc), one reported diving off of Follett's I., Brazoria 18 Jul (JSt), and another at Boca Chica, Cameron 29 Jul (ScC). Northern Gannets were reported all along the coast in impressive numbers during the period. Reflecting this unusual number of summering birds was the number of individuals recovered along the beaches. Three gannets were found beached 20 Jul on the Bolivar Pen., Galveston (JKe), and many dead or moribund birds were found in Nueces, Kleberg, and Kenedy (DN, BS) during the period. An amazing total of 34 beached birds was reported as of 18 Jul to the ARK rehabilitation center in Port Aransas, Nueces (TA). Interestingly, most of these were second-year birds.

Twenty-four American White Pelicans, unusual in the summer, were spotted at L. Bob Sandlin, Titus 24 Jun (LA). Double-crested Cormorants typically leave Central Texas during summer months, but this summer up to 6 were reported along the Cowhouse Cr. arm of Belton L., Bell 8 Jun–18 Jul (RKO), and singles were found at L. Waco, McLennan 9 Jun and at Waco, McLennan 14 Jun (EH). Anhingas were reported in above-average numbers in n.-cen. Texas (m.ob.), with apparent local breeding noted.

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

An American Bittern at San Bernard N.W.R., Brazoria 6 Jul (JW) was in the same general area where 2 were seen in May and provided a first summer record for the county. For the 2nd straight Jul, a Least Bittern was seen at McNary Res., Hudspeth, this time a lone bird 28 Jul (JPa). Two Least Bitterns, one of which

was a juv., at Lubbock, Lubbock 15 May–26 Jul (CM, m.ob.) provided the 8th record for nw. Texas and the first breeding record for the South Plains. An ad. Little Blue Heron near Cotton Center, Hale 8 Jul (AH) furnished the first Jul report since 2000 for the South Plains. An ad. Tricolored Heron at McNary Res., Hudspeth 9 Jul (ph. JPa) was the first in several years for the El Paso area. A count of 23 Glossy Ibis in the Magnolia Beach/Indianola area of Calhoun 9 Jun (BFR) indicates that these birds are holding their own in that area. Two White-faced Ibis

noted at L. Tawakoni, Rains 5 Jun (RKi) made an unexpected find for n.-cen. Texas.

An Osprey near Abernathy, Hale 10 Jun (GB) was only the 3rd Jun report ever for the South Plains. Swallow-tailed Kites are establishing themselves more firmly on the Upper



The status of White-eared Hummingbird in Texas has taken an interesting turn in the past three years. Summer 2007 saw another "invasion" of sorts into the Trans-Pecos and raised speculation that this movement could be part of a normal (or developing) post-breeding dispersal. This hatch-year bird (here 5 July) was one of at least six present in the Davis Mountains during the period. Photograph by Maryann Eastman.

Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.), with apparent local breeding noted at Baytown, Harris, where an ad. was photographed carrying away a Northern Mockingbird nestling (M&CS), and near Sweeny, Brazoria, where 2 ads. were seen through the period and 2 juvs. were spotted with them in late Jul (fide CB). Both the Baytown and Sweeny observers reported seeing these birds during previous summers. Other Swallow-tailed Kites of note included singles near Dickinson Bayou, Galveston 8 Jun (TO), Lake Jackson, Brazoria 28 Jun (R&KL), just e. of Lake Jackson 5 Jul (SH), Tomball College, Harris 15 Jul (HS), and Kleb Woods, Harris 25 Jul (JM). A Snail Kite found along Old Brownsville Rd. near Port Isabel, Cameron 14

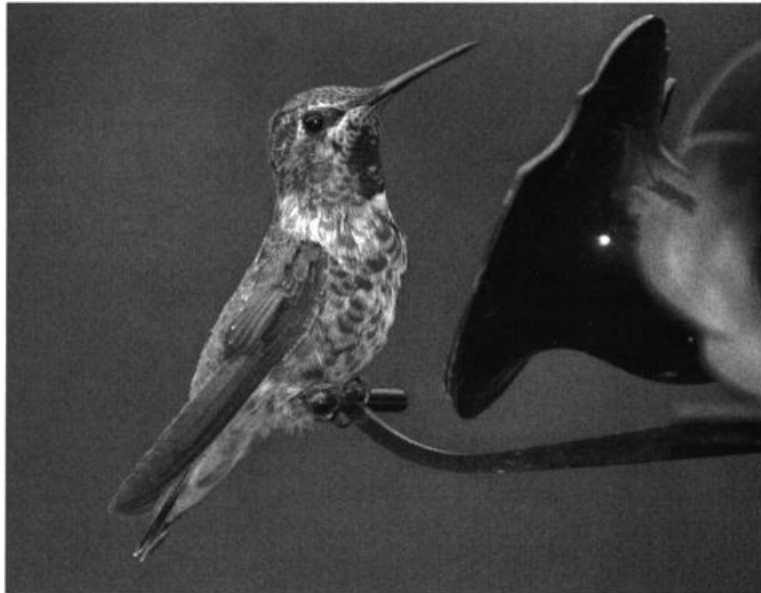
Jul (ph., †JFr, ScC, MG) provided just the 2nd record for the Lower Rio Grande Valley and the 3rd for the state. A Sharp-shinned Hawk seen and heard at Camp Bullis, Bexar 23–24 Jun (LL) was most unexpected. Cooper's Hawks appear to be expanding into new areas, with birds reported at Copperas Cove, Coryell 23 Jun and Fort Hood, Coryell 24 Jun (RKO), at Stillhouse Hollow L., Bell 1–4 Jul (GE), at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso 21 Jun and 16 Jul (JSp), and at four Harris locations. Gray Hawk pairs continue to be found at Rio Grande Village/Daniels Ranch and Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend, Brewster and near Fort Davis, Jeff Davis (m.ob.). The Common Black-Hawk pair at Rio Grande Village, Brewster had fledged one young by the end of the period (fide MF). A Harris's Hawk near Bolivar Flats, Galveston 31 Jul (BN) was likely a holdover from the U.T.C. mini-invasion of the past two years. A Harris's Hawk at Van Horn, Culberson 17 Jun (ML) constituted a rare county record. An extralimital Zone-tailed Hawk found along the Nueces R. in the w. portion of Corpus Christi, Nueces 17 Jul (JSi, VS) was certainly at an unexpected location. A pair of American Kestrels nested on the Sam Houston Building near the Capitol in downtown Austin, Travis (fide EC). Also of note was an American Kestrel observed preening in Walker 21 Jul (RBe, LBe), where it is rare in summer. Out-of-place Peregrine Falcons included singles in nw. San Antonio, Bexar 8 Jun (RoL), at Santa Ana N.W.R., Hidalgo 30 Jun (MG), in Collin 24 Jul (DHi), and in Bell 27 Jul (RKO).

RAILS THROUGH JAEGERS

An impressive count of 9 Black Rails was tallied in s. Calhoun 24 Jul (BFR). Even more exceptional given the inland location was a Clapper Rail found at La Sal del Rey, Hidalgo 29 Jul (DJ). A Sora found at L. McLellan, Gray 2 Jun (LS) was just the 2nd Jun report for the Panhandle. Rare for the area, a Common Moorhen was reported at the Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarrant 4 Jun (JiS). A wayward American Golden-Plover was present in Midland 16 Jun (RMS, JAd). Several pairs of Snowy Plovers at Pauline L., Hardeman 10 Jun (BP) established the first documented breeding record for the county. An early migrant Snowy Plover was noted in Austin, Travis 13 Jul (MK). A count of 150 Semipalmated Plovers at East Beach, Galveston 29 Jun (JKe) was a notable number for Jun. The first Piping Plover report was of one at East Beach, Galveston 29 Jun (JKe). Two Piping Plovers visited Hornsby Bend, Travis 14 Jul (KQ, EC). A Solitary Sandpiper at Fort Travis, Galveston 8 Jul (JKe) was early. Only recently have U.T.C. observers focused on the

comings and goings of Eastern (local breeders) and Western (migrants) Willets. A Western Willet in worn alternate plumage at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 15 Jul (CTL) was the first sign of migrants returning from breeding grounds on the Great Plains. On 28 Jul, Lee remarked "Eastern Willets have almost all vacated Bolivar and have been replaced with worn alternate-plumaged Western Willets. The only Eastern Willets left are a few juveniles and one worn adult." A Spotted Sandpiper at Pelican I., *Galveston* 7 Jul (CTL) matched the earliest "fall" record for the U.T.C. Two Upland Sandpipers just n. of Lubbock, *Lubbock* 8 Jul (AH) were either very early migrants or local breeders. Another early Upland was heard in Bell 12 Jul (RPi). Semipalmated Sandpipers were present in record numbers on the U.T.C. through Jun, with a high count of 40 at Pelican I., *Galveston* 23 Jun (TE). White-rumped Sandpipers lingered almost through the entire period at Pelican I., with the number of birds dwindling from a high of 10 present 21-23 Jun (TE) to one there on 2 Jul, 4 on 3 Jul (TE), and finally one in worn alternate plumage 14 Jul (CTL). Elsewhere, a White-rumped Sandpiper was present at Texas City 20 Jul and 2 at Bolivar Flats 22 Jul, both *Galveston* (JKe). Two early Baird's Sandpipers were in Midland, *Midland* 4 Jul (RMS). A Stilt Sandpiper at Pelican I. 23 Jun (TE) was either late or early. A Short-billed Dowitcher was at Millers Creek Res., *Baylor* 21 Jul (GC, BBu), and 6 were at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 28 Jul (RKi, RBa). Wilson's Phalarope reports included 2 at Pelican I. 16 Jun (TE) and 4 there 7 Jul (CTL).

Two Laughing Gulls were on Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 10 Jun (RPi); the species is essentially annual in the Trans-Pecos in summer. A Franklin's Gull in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 2 Jun (TS) was considered an accidental summer visitor for the South Plains. Seven ad. Ring-billed Gulls 31 Jul were quite early at the Texas City Dike, *Galveston* (JKe). Four Sooty Terns were observed 27 Jul from the S. Padre I. jetties, *Cameron* (BMc). A rare but regular visitor to the w. Trans-Pecos, single Least Terns at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 3 Jun (JSp) and at Tornillo Res., *El Paso* 23 Jun-2 Jul (JPa) fit perfectly with the expected pattern of occurrence. Expanding their inland breeding range,



There had been only one previous summer record of Anna's Hummingbird in Texas, from 2006, until this young male spent the entire summer 2007 period (here 7 July) in the central Davis Mountains and was joined by a second immature male 20 July and later. Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.

3 ad. Least Terns with at least one nest at Childress L., *Childress* 10 Jun (BP) represented a county first. Two Least Terns were found at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 4 Jul (JIS); a single was at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 5 & 15 Jul (RKi); 2 were noted in *Clay* 16 Jul (SL); and a high count of over 25 was observed at Dundee State Fish Hatchery, *Archer* 21 Jul (GC, BBu). Large Least Tern counts included 400 at Pelican I. 23 Jun (TE) and 600 at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* 28 Jul (RW). A Caspian Tern was seen at L. Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 15 Jul (RBa), and 2 more were there on 17 Jul (RKi). A total of 1200 Black Terns at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* 15 Jun (TE) was a nice Jun total. A Black Tern was observed at Soda L., *Midland* 29 Jun (BLu). A Parasitic Jaeger reported 26 Jul from w. Galveston I. (JSt) provided a first summer record for the U.T.C.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon in w. El Paso, *El Paso* 19 Jun (ph. JPa) represented a first summer record for the area. A Black-billed Cuckoo on w. Galveston I. 4 Jun (JSt) was the 2nd latest ever for the U.T.C. Three Burrowing Owls were observed in *Clay* 4 Jun (SL, BBo), and one near Dundee State Fish Hatchery, *Archer* 21 Jul (GC, BBu) was at a known breeding area. Restoration efforts at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso*, including the placement of some artificial burrows, have clearly benefited Burrowing Owls. A high count of 29 on 21 Jul (JSp) was an excellent total. The breeding Long-eared Owls at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* from the spring were seen

through 1 Jul (JSp). The most unexpected bird of the season in the Trans-Pecos was a **Chuck-will's-widow** found by Pinkston 13 Jun at upper elevation in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis*. The vocal and territorial bird remained through the period (RPi, audiotape KB). The species occurs west to e. *Val Verde* but was not on anyone's radar for the Davis Mts. The nesting pair of Chuck-will's-widows with 2 young along Mitchell Cr., *Donley* continued through 2 Jun (ph. BP) for a first confirmed breeding record for the Panhandle; another at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 10 Jun (AH) was well w. of the species' expected distribution. A calling Whip-poor-will in Alpine, *Brewster* 25-27 Jul was unusual (ML)

Counts of Chimney Swifts at a Houston, *Harris* roost were interesting in that the peak of 263 birds was counted 12 Jun, with numbers declining steadily after that (PS, DVe). It was a good season for Green Violet-ear in the state, with single birds present near Ingram, *Kerr* 16 May-13 Jun (ph., †DP) and near Boerne, *Kendall* 13 Jun (ph. DP). The long-staying Green Violet-ear from the spring visited feeders in *Bastrop* through 14 Jul (ph. SF). An ad. pair of Broad-billed Hummingbirds was present all period at the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* (M&ME). They were joined by a hatch-year male 28 Jul+. White-eared Hummingbirds again made a strong showing in the Davis Mts., where 6 additional birds were reported, including a hatch-year bird at one residence 4-20 Jul (†M&ME, ML) and 5 at another residence (ph., †ML). A female White-eared Hummingbird graced feeders near Utopia, *Uvalde* 21-22 Jul (ph., †MHi). A male Lucifer Hummingbird × Black-chinned Hummingbird visited an Alpine yard, *Brewster* 8-26 Jul (ph. ML). There are at least 12 state records of this hybrid combination, with nine of them coming from Big Bend N.P. or the Davis Mts. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird near Utopia, *Uvalde* 1 Jun was w. of the species' usual breeding range (MHi). Two imm. male Anna's Hummingbirds in the Davis Mountains (ph. M&ME) provided only the 2nd and 3rd summer records for Texas. One bird was present all period, with the other present 20 Jul+. In Leander, *Williamson*, a male Calliope Hummingbird came to feeders 24-27 Jul (CFe). Early Rufous Hummingbirds

included singles at Wimberley, *Hays* 15 Jul (CR) and Copperas Cove, *Coryell* 16-18 Jul (RKO). A Red-headed Woodpecker near Bull L., *Lamb* 10 Jun (AH) was w. of its usual haunts in nw. Texas. Three Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in *Van Zandt* 3 Jun (RKi) in an area where nesting is not known. Rare but regular breeders in the Houston, *Harris* area, Northern Flickers were found 26 Jun (DM) and 17 Jul (MD).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher on w. Galveston I. 3 Jun was a late migrant (JSt). An Eastern Wood-Pewee lingered in *Waller* through 1 Jun (BH) for a presumed first summer record. Another Eastern Wood-Pewee on w. Galveston I. 4 Jun (JSt) was likely a late migrant, while yet another was an unexpected find in *Bell* 30 Jun (RKO). A Willow Flycatcher at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 28 Jul (AH) and one in *Tahoka*, *Lynn* 29 Jul (AH) were early migrants. Least Flycatchers in *Hunt* 15 Jul (RBa) and in *Yoakum* 28 Jul (AH) were also early migrants. Single Least Flycatchers seen 21 Jul at High I., *Galveston* and at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* were the first returning birds for the U.T.C. (DVe). Three to four territories of Buff-breasted Flycatchers were located in the Davis Mountains Preserve during the period, with at least one pair successfully producing young (†JaP). Dusky-capped Flycatchers were conspicuous in the upper Chisos Mts., *Brewster* and high in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis*. The pair in Boot Canyon from the spring was last reported 1 Jun (KR), and another pair was found along the upper Pinnacles Trail 12 Jun–13 Jul (†RPi, VE, Bly). Seven Dusky-capped were in the Davis Mts. 7 Jul, including at least one pair with young (†ML). Two Brown-crested Flycatchers were present 9 Jun–12 Jul in *Guadalupe* (SS). A Great Kiskadee at L. Waco, *McLennan* 7 Jul (ph. EH, ph. FB) provided only a 2nd county record. The Couch's Kingbirds at Smith Pt., *Chambers* returned once again, with successful nesting confirmed 1 Jul (JAr). A Gray Kingbird videotaped at Sea Rim S.P., *Jefferson* 2 Jun (†DVe) was only the 3rd record for the U.T.C. and the 8th for the state.

Black-capped Vireos attempted nesting at L. Georgetown, *Williamson* (TFe), but by 16 Jul, summer rains had placed the nest under water. Uncommon for the area, a possible nesting Yellow-throated Vireo was noted at Bob Woodruff Park, *Collin* 10 & 24 Jun (PA). Freeman reported a singing Warbling Vireo at Webberville Park, *Travis* 9 Jul. Red-eyed Vireos lingered on the coast through 5 Jun at w. Galveston I. (JSt) and 10 & 14 Jun and 7 Jul at High I., *Galveston* (DVe, JKe). Three Yellow-green Vireos were reported throughout

the season at Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* (BMc, m.ob.), and one was in Brownsville, *Cameron* all period (DB, MG), where it had maintained a territory for the previous three summers as well. No Brown Jays were reported during Jun and Jul, raising concerns for the species' continued presence in Texas. Reports of Tamaulipas Crow consisted only of a successful nesting pair at the Brownsville International Airport, *Cameron* (BMc). Rare for the vicinity, 9 Chihuahuan Ravens were observed 5 Jun (LBa, JFe) on a breeding bird survey route s. of Vernon, *Wilbarger*. Apparent nesting by Chihuahuan Ravens was observed near Utopia, *Uvalde* 2 Jul (MHi).

A very late Horned Lark was found in *Denton* 9 Jun (GG). An estimated 1500 Purple Martins had gathered in Baytown, *Harris* 14



Hybrid Colima Warbler x Virginia's Warblers are known in the upper elevations of the Davis Mountains of far western Texas. This nest, the first known for this combination, was found 13 June 2007 in a secluded canyon in closed-canopy Ponderosa Pine–Silverleaf Oak woodland. Photograph by Randy Pinkston.

Jul (DwL), while 50,000+ were estimated in sw. Houston, *Harris* 18 Jul (DVe). Six early arriving Tree Swallows were at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 31 Jul (ph. JKe). A large flock of 60+ Bank Swallows near Alazan Bay, *Kleberg* 13 Jun (TL, BW) led to speculation that there may have been a nesting colony nearby. Cave Swallows continue to be found in small numbers on the South Plains, with 4 near Post, *Garza* 9 Jun (AH), 22 at a separate location nearby 16 Jun (AH), and 8 near Meadow, *Terry* 25 Jun (AH, RLe). A single Cave Swallow was found near Vernon, *Wilbarger* 5 Jun (LBa, JFe), and 12 were found nesting at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 22 Jul (RKi, RBa), marking the continued expansion in n.-cen. Texas.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

Rock Wrens successfully nested on the spillway at L. Georgetown, *Williamson*, with fledglings first observed 20 Jun (TFe). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers arrived on a record-early date

for the U.T.C., and in unusual numbers, with 10 at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* and 4 at High I., *Galveston* 21 Jul (DVe). A lingering *Catharus* thrush at Cibolo, *Guadalupe* 6 Jun (ph. SS) was likely a Gray-cheeked, but Swainson's could not be completely eliminated as an alternate identification. This would be a particularly late record for a Gray-cheeked Thrush in cen. Texas. Territorial Wood Thrushes were noted in some unexpected locations, among them one in *Bell* 21 May–3 Jun (RPi) and 2 at River Legacy Part, *Tarrant* 20 Jun (JiS). For the 5th consecutive summer, a Clay-colored Robin was present in Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* (TM). To date, attempts to find this bird in winter have been unsuccessful. A Clay-colored Robin present since the spring in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* was last seen 26 Jul (JeP). A single American Robin in Utopia, *Uvalde* 27 Jun (MHi) provided a rare summer record for the w. Hill Country. Gray Catbirds were found in record numbers on the U.T.C., with breeding pairs found, or at least suspected, at nine different locations (m.ob.) A lingering Gray Catbird was near Cibolo, *Guadalupe* 8 Jun (SS), whereas one at L. Livingston, *Trinity* 20 Jun (PC) may have been a summer resident. Cedar Waxwings are well known to linger into Jun; this season, one was at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* 2 Jun (RW), 8 were at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 2 Jun (DVe), and 3 were at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 14 Jun (ph. JKe), the latter providing the latest summer record for the U.T.C. Most bizarre was a lone Cedar Waxwing in Boerne, *Kendall* 13 Jul (TC).

An Orange-crowned Warbler in El Paso, *El Paso* 31 Jul (JPo) was about two weeks early. A rare migrant in the Trans-Pecos, a singing Northern Parula at El Paso, *El Paso* 4 Jun (JKi) was late. Two Yellow Warblers near Bula, *Bailey* 10 Jun (AH) were late, but one in Utopia, *Uvalde* 27 Jun (MHi) is hard to explain. A Black-throated Green Warbler at High I., *Galveston* 10 Jun (DVe) set a new late date for the U.T.C. For the 3rd consecutive year, a Yellow-throated Warbler was present at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* (m.ob.). Interestingly, the bird sang a typical Yellow-throated Warbler song during its first spring and summer but now sings a song typical of a Grace's Warbler (audiotape KB). Multiple sightings of Yellow-throated Warblers in the Central Brazos Valley suggest the possibility of local nesting. Single birds were noted at separate *Robertson* locations 7 Jun and 16 Jun (DCo) and in *Washington* 6 Jul (DVo). The only previous evidence is territorial ads. and a juv. observed in May 2006 in *Robertson*. Rare for the area, 4 singing Prairie Warblers were found 16 Jun at four different locations in *Anderson* (DDC, DLi). An early migrating Black-

and-white Warbler arrived at High I. 29 Jun (DVe). A late migrant American Redstart was on w. Galveston I. 4 Jun (JSt), and one there 30 Jul (DVe) represented the first Jul record for the U.T.C. Of great interest was an American Redstart at Lake Tawakoni S.P., *Hunt* 7 Jul (VW); what may have been the same bird was seen again 22 Jul (DH_a, BLy). It is unclear whether this was a very late spring migrant, an extremely early fall migrant, or a wandering bird from the breeding populations farther east. A Prothonotary Warbler at High I. 6 Jul (*fide* WB) may have been a very early migrant. Most unexpected was a male Prothonotary Warbler at Fredericksburg, *Gillespie* 1-25 Jun (ph. BLi). Swainson's Warblers of note included one in *Anderson* 16 Jun (DDC, DLi) and another singing in *Smith* 30 Jun (PB). A territorial male Kentucky Warbler was observed on Fort Hood, *Coryell* 24 Jun (Rko), providing a 2nd record for the fort and possibly the first for the county. A late pulse of migrant Hooded Warblers was noted on the U.T.C., with 3 at Sea Rim S.P., *Jefferson*, 2 at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson*, and one at High I., *Galveston*, all on 2 Jun (DVe). The recently discovered population of Yellow-breasted Chats at White River L., *Crosby* continues, with 15 ads. and at least 2 fledglings present 30 Jun (AH).

SEEDEATER THROUGH FINCHES

A White-collared Seedeater at Santa Ana N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 12 Jul (DJ) provided a very rare record for the cen. portion of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Cassin's Sparrows were scarce in cen. Texas this season, with the only report being one at Fort Hood, *Bell* 26 Jun (Rko). Six ad. Field Sparrows and a nest with 4 nestlings provided continued evidence of breeding by this species at White River L., *Crosby* 30 Jun (AH). A very early Vesper Sparrow was at El Paso, *El Paso* 21 Jul (JSp). Two Lark Sparrows at Candy Abshier W.M.A., *Chambers* 22 Jul (JKe) may have been local breeders. A Grasshopper Sparrow on the Katy Prairie, *Harris* 10 Jun (JB) was notable, as they are no longer annual nesters on the U.T.C. In the n. portion of the state, Grasshopper Sparrows had a banner year, highlighted by high counts of 44 in *Van Zandt* 18 Jul (RKi) and reports of multiple birds from nearly every county on the South Plains (m.ob.). A very late White-crowned Sparrow lingered in Austin, *Travis* until 9 Jun (T&PW). A late migrant Black-headed Grosbeak at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 10 Jun (AH) provided only the 2nd Jun record for the South Plains. Also late was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at High I. 10 Jun (DVe). Up to 2 Blue Grosbeaks were present along Hebert

Rd., *Waller* during the period (BH); this species is a very rare summer resident on the U.T.C., though it is usually present in good numbers in adjacent *Washington*. Similarly, Indigo Buntings were present all period in *Waller*, with a peak of 10 singing birds 15 Jul (BH); this species is more common in savanna habitats in *Washington*. Six ad. and 2 fledgling Indigo Buntings provided continued evidence of breeding at White River L., *Crosby* 30 Jun (AH). A territorial male Varied Bunting was in the Carrizo Mts. in extreme e. *Hudspeth* 22 Jul (ph. JPa). There are few county records, but the species is likely more widespread in the area than is known due to a lack of access to appropriate habitat. Dickcissels had an incredible breeding season on the South Plains, with reports of multiple birds



Nothing short of bizarre, this Common Redpoll on the Bolivar Peninsula, Galveston County, Texas on 13 June 2007 provided the third summer record for the state. Astonishingly, all of these records have come from coastal locations. Photograph by Linda Vratiss.

from virtually every county (m.ob.).

A very well-described female Bobolink was at Oasis Creek Ranch, *Hemphill* 14 Jul (BP), providing a very rare record for the Panhandle. Bronzed Cowbirds continue to be found in increasing numbers on the South Plains, with more than 20 individuals noted during the period (m.ob.). A very late, or possibly nesting, male Baltimore Oriole was at Willow Springs G.C., *Tarrant* 18 Jul (JSc). The bird of the season was a Common Redpoll photographed at a seed feeder on the Bolivar Pen., *Galveston* 13 Jun (LV), providing the 9th state and 2nd U.T.C. record. Amazingly, the other U.T.C. record was also from Jun!

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