

North American Birds Report
South Texas Sub-Region
Aug. 1 – Nov. 30, 2006

October produced good rains over most of the area. There were virtually no tropical storms. One pelagic trip August 19 out of South Padre Island produced the expected pelagic species, with virtually no surprises. A mini-invasion of Northern Jacana occurred in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, with three documented birds and a fourth possible. Greater Flamingos were in the news again on the central coast, with a naturally occurring bird continuing in the area, being joined by a Kansas escapee.

Western Grebe...One was found Nov. 28 in Aransas Bay at Rockport Beach Park, Rockport, *Aransas*, for a rare coastal record of the species (MD, *fide* MDo, MT).

Cory's Shearwater...Twenty were found on the August 19 pelagic trip out of South Padre Island, *Cameron*. All but one was in deep water (BMc).

Audubon's Shearwater...**Twenty-nine** were found on the August 19 pelagic trip out of South Padre Island, *Cameron*, (BMc).

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel...One was seen on the August 19 pelagic trip out of South Padre Island, *Cameron*, (BMc).

Masked Booby...Three birds, two immatures and one adult, were found in relatively shallow shelf waters on the August 19 pelagic trip out of South Padre Island, *Cameron*, (BMc).

Wood Stork...A high number of **171** were found Aug. 6 at Weslaco Estero Llano Grande State Park, *Hidalgo* (BMc).

Greater Flamingo... A lone banded bird, present since July 25, continued at the marsh flats near Bayside, *Refugio*, until Aug. 25 (JO) and possibly later. Although the band could not be completely read, the first two numbers matched the band numbers of another bird that was present the previous winter near St. Joseph Island and Goose Island, *Aransas*. The latter bird was traced back to the Rio Lagartos Reserve in Yucatan, Mexico, where it had been banded in 2005. The Rio Lagartos bird was found again Nov. 20 during a National Wildlife Refuge aerial survey in *Calhoun*, in the company of a second banded Greater Flamingo. The second bird was later determined to have been one of two June 27, 2005 escapees from the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Ks. The other escapee's whereabouts were unknown (PH).

On September 30, three flamingos were seen in flats near the Magic Ridge TOS sanctuary, *Calhoun*. (P&LS). This is near the Nov. 20 Calhoun location for the later-seen Rio Lagartos/Wichita escapee pair. Two flamingos were seen again at the Magic Ridge location Dec. 17 (DN, *fide* P&LS).

Zone-tailed Hawk...One was seen in *Hidalgo* Nov. 8, (PB, *fide* BMc).

Prairie Falcon...One was found Nov. 26 in short grass pasture areas in *Nueces* where the species is a very low-density visitor/migrant (MC).

Whooping Crane.... An early December aerial census of Aransas NWR, *Aransas*, and surrounding areas revealed a count of 181 adult Whooping Cranes and 43 chicks = 224 total. The total flock size was estimated at 234 at that time. (TS, *fide* PB).

American Golden Plover... One was found Nov. 23 at Drum Point in Baffin Bay, *Kleberg*, for a very late fall date (AC, MC).

Northern Jacana.. One was present from Aug. 5 to Nov. 14 at Weslaco Estero Llano Grande State Park, *Hidalgo* (MM, RZ, m. ob). Submitted to TBRC. Another was found at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo*, and was seen from Aug. 10-18 (JB, JO). Yet another was reported Aug. 22 from Mission, *Hidalgo*, details to TBRC (DD).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper.... Over **1000** were seen Aug. 27 in sorghum and cotton stubble at an inland *Cameron* location for a surprisingly large number. (PW).

American Woodcock...One was found at Nov. 14 at Aransas NWR, *Aransas*, for the season's only report (BF, PH).

Pomarine Jaeger.... One juvenile bird was found Sept. 12 on Padre Island National Seashore, *Kenedy*, (BS).

Sabine's Gull.... One adult bird was found Sept. 16 on Padre Island National Seashore, *Kenedy*, *Willacy*, (BS).

Bridled Tern... One was found on the August 19 pelagic trip out of South Padre Island, *Cameron*, (BMc).

Sooty Tern...Thirty-four were seen, mostly adults, on August 19 pelagic trip out of South Padre Island, *Cameron*, (BMc).

Ruddy Ground-Dove...One was reported Sept. 9 (MO, details to TBRC) and again Sept. 17 (TB) at Weslaco Estero Llano Grande State Park, *Hidalgo*.

Green Parakeet...A roost-count census was conducted Nov. 3-4 in several Lower Rio Grande Valley cities, as well as Laredo. Counted were: McAllen, *Hidalgo* 380, Weslaco, *Hidalgo*, 13, San Benito, *Cameron*, 33 and Laredo, *Webb*, 16 (TB).

Long-eared Owl...One was heard calling pre-dawn at the Daughtery Wildlife Management Area, *Live Oak*, 19 Nov (RW, BL, DP)

Broad-billed Hummingbird...One was found Sept. 9 at a feeder in Harlingen, *Cameron*, for a rare Lower Rio Grande Valley record (MH).

Anna's Hummingbird....One juvenile was found Oct. 17 in Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* (PH).

Allen's Hummingbird... A female bird was recaptured Aug. 2 by Ortego at a banding station in Raisin, *Victoria*. The bird had been banded at that location November 2005.

Calliope Hummingbird...A female was attracted to a *Live Oak* feeder Oct. 29-Nov. 5, for a rare Coastal Bend record (GB).

Barred Antshrike...One was tape-recorded, but not seen, at Harlingen, *Cameron* on the evening of Sep. 1 (MH). Efforts to relocate the bird the following day were unsuccessful.

Gray Kingbird...One was found Oct. 26-29 at Hazel Bazemore County Park, Corpus Christi, *Nueces* for only the 7th state record, if accepted by TBRC. (LE, DF, MC doc.) details to TBRC.

Plumbeous Vireo.... One was found Nov. 4 at Rose Hill Cemetery, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*; a spot in which this rare winter visitor has occurred several times previously (MC).

Yellow-Green Vireo.... One was found at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, on Aug. 27 (DJ).

Black-throated Blue Warbler... A number of sightings for the species: One was found Sept. 23 at Weslaco Estero Llano Grande State Park, *Hidalgo*, (BMc). Another was present Sept. 20-23 on South Padre Island, *Cameron*, (BMc). Another was found Oct. 15 at Rose Hill Cemetery, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, (LJ). A female was found Nov. 10 at Frontera Audubon Sanctuary in Weslaco, *Hidalgo*, (PL).

Black-throated Gray Warbler... One as at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun*, on Nov. 18 (BF, PH).

American Tree Sparrow... One bird was found Nov. 18 on North Padre Island, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*. Amazingly, this was the exact same spot in which another bird of this species (or the same?) was found Dec. 2004 for the first County and first Coastal Bend Record. (LJ).

House Finch... Three were found Nov. 7 at the University of Texas-Brownsville campus, *Cameron*, apparently an isolated population, rare for the Lower Valley (MI).

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