

North American Birds Report
South Texas Sub-region
Spring Season
March 1 to May 31, 2006

The persistent South Texas drought was interrupted in late May by rains that scattered upwards of 6-10 inches over most of the region. Portions of Kleberg County recorded upwards of 20 inches in 48 hours May 29 and May 30. Coastal migrant-trap birding was quite difficult due to uninterrupted south winds and lack of food source relating to drought. Northerly fronts on April 26 and May 11 resulted in good passerine fallouts throughout the coast.

Yellow-billed Loon... Reid and Coffey discovered a basic-plumaged bird feeding in shallow water March 25 in the Laguna Madre in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* (MR, SC, AC, MC, doc. to TBRC, photo). The bird was present through at least Mar. 27. If accepted by TBRC, it would represent the first county record, first Coastal Bend record, and sixth state record.

Red-billed Tropicbird.... One was seen very regularly from fishing boats of South Padre Island, *Cameron*, from early May-June 8 (*fide* ScC, PM photo)

Masked Booby.... One found March 3 on the new North Padre Island Packery Channel rock jetty, *Nueces*, represented a rare late winter record (BF).

Magnificent Frigatebird...One immature bird was seen Mar. 12 over Copano Bay, *Aransas* (RL). This was likely the same bird that was seen Mar. 13 at nearby Goose Island State Park, *Aransas*, for a rare winter record (C&RG).

Greater Flamingo.... The Yucatan-banded stray bird, discovered in September 2005, was still present and being reported regularly as late as April 30 in salt flats near Rockport, *Aransas*, (CF, BP, C&RG, m.ob).

Short-tailed Hawk... One was carefully studied April 25 at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr*, (BG, BL, doc to TBRC). A pair was observed April 30 in display flight at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo* (MI, JR).

Zone-tailed Hawk...One was found April 9 at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr*, (BZ). Another was present April 10 at Sabal Palm Grove, *Cameron* (RR).

American Kestrel... A May 23 bird in NE *Kenedy* was puzzling due to its late date (BF).

Black Rail.. One was heard calling for half an hour April 2 in salt marsh habitat at Cape Valero near Rockport, *Aransas*, (KE).

Pacific Golden-Plover.. A striking pre-alternate bird was found in a flooded rice field near Edna, *Jackson*, on April 12, associating with 1000+ American Golden-Plovers. If accepted by TBRC, it would represent the first Texas record (MR, photo, doc. SC, MC, RWe, m.ob.)

Glaucous Gull...One was present March 25 at the Elliott Landfill, Corpus Christi, *Nueces* (SC, MR).

Sooty Tern... Two adults were seen May 3 on Padre Island National Seashore, *Kenedy* (BS). These birds are likely from a very small local breeding population.

Mangrove Cuckoo... One was discovered May 19 at Frontera Audubon Sanctuary, Weslaco, *Hidalgo*, (YA, JP, photo) and was present until at least May 30 (MD). If accepted by TBRC, this would represent the fourth LRGV record and the 10th Texas record.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl... Two birds were reported Mar. 6 and Mar. 13 from the small population at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo*, (BMc).

Cordilleran Flycatcher... One found May 16 in NE *Kenedy* (*calling?*) represented an exceptional spring record (BF).

Dusky-capped Flycatcher.... Two birds, present since December, were still present March 6 near Los Indios, *Cameron* (TF).

Piratic Flycatcher... One was found and heard calling March 20 at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo* (DD) representing a rare US record. The bird proved to be very elusive through March 28, being heard more often seen by most observers. The bird was thought to have been a migratory overshoot. If accepted by TBRC, it would represent a third Texas record.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher... One was well-documented at South Padre Island, *Cameron* May 13 (W&GC, ScC, photos, doc.).

Rose-throated Becard... A lone female bird was found nest-building at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, on May 20 and apparently continued through mid-June (*fide* JR).

Bell's Vireo... One was found at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo*, on May 12 (TB).

Black-capped Vireo... One was found April 21 in the Calallen section of western Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, representing the first known county record (VS).

Plumbeous Vireo... The single bird present throughout the winter at Rose Hill Cemetery, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, was singing April 1 (MC).

Yellow-Green Vireo... One was located May 15 in NE *Kenedy*, (BF). Another was found May 17 at Sabal Palm Grove, *Cameron* (MG) and yet another May 20-21 at South Padre Island, *Cameron*, (*fide* BMC, BW).

Black-whiskered Vireo.... One was found April 23 at South Padre Island, *Cameron*, (ScC, PaW photo, doc.) and another was present at the same location May 11-12 for a rare migrant records (PW, ScC, photos, doc.).

Blue Jay... One was seen April 27 in Flour Bluff portion of Corpus Christi, *Nueces* (BS). The species is normally a rare, irruptive winter visitor to the western portion of the county.

Tamaulipas Crow.... There were several reports during the season, including two birds at the Doppler Radar Station in Brownsville, *Cameron*, (*fide* BMC, PD) from Mar. 4-15. Up to three more pairs were reported from the nearby Brownsville Airport vicinity from Mar. 31+ (MG, BMC, BC).

Clay-colored Robin.... One was found April 17 at Pollywog Pond, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, (MC).

"Brewster's" Warbler... One was reported April 30 from Frontera Audubon Sanctuary, Weslaco, *Hidalgo*, (DJ).

Black-throated Blue Warbler... One found March 10 at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, may have been a wintering bird (GW, *fide* PD).

Prairie Warbler... One was found April 8 on South Padre Island, *Cameron*, for a rare LRGV record (BZ), And another was at Blucher Park, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, on April 30 for a rare spring migrant (MC, WS).

Swainson's Warbler... A very early migrating bird was found Mar. 21 at Blucher Park, Corpus Christi, *Nueces* (MC).

MacGillivray's Warbler... One was reported May. 11 on South Padre Island, *Cameron* (MG).

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat... The long-staying male remained until June 3 at Sabal Palm Grove, *Cameron*, where it has been reported for the past two years (*fide* BMC, BZ, m.ob).

Western Tanager... A female bird appeared at Wauer's bird bath in Victoria, *Victoria*, on Mar. 12 for a rare winter record (RW).

Green-tailed Towhee.. One lingered since January at Blucher Park, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, and was last seen April 15. (GLi). This is a rare coastal record for the species.

Savannah Sparrow.. One found May 22 in NE *Kenedy* represented a very late date (BF, GP).

Crimson-collared Grosbeak... One was reported May 20 from Frontera Audubon Sanctuary, Weslaco, *Hidalgo* (MG, doc.)

Lazuli Bunting... One was found April 29 along Oso Creek, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, for a rare spring migrant (MC).

Varied Bunting... One obliging bird stayed April 16 to May 17 on a private ranch in NW *Hidalgo*, (L&JMc, GL).

Painted Bunting.. Freeman noted an extraordinary movement of 800-1000 May 4 in NE *Kenedy*.

Lesser Goldfinch.. A singing male found May 11 at Paradise Pond, Port Aransas, *Nueces*, was a puzzling barrier island record, as was another at Packery Channel, *Nueces* on May 20. (MC).

Observers:

Yousef Attia

Tim Brush

Will and Gill Carter

Bill Clark

Sheridan Coffey (SC)

Scarlet Colley (ScC)

Arlie Cooksey

Mel Cooksey

David Dauphin

Mike Delesantro

Pat DeWenter

Kim Eckert

Carol Ferguson

Dan Floyd

Brush Freeman
Terry Fuller
Brian Gibbons
Mary Gustafson
Carol Gutberlet
Ron Gutberlet
Marshall Iliff
Dan Jones
Larry Jordan
Rene Laubach
Greg Lasley
Greg Lisciandro (GLi)
Barry Lyon
Lowry McAllen
Jessica McAllen
Brad McKinney
Patrick Murphy
Glenn Perrigo
Jerry Pilny
Brenda Prothro
Martin Reid
Joshua Rose
Roy Rodriguez
Billy Sandifer
Willie Sekula
Vicky Simon
Pat Wade
Ro Wauer
Ron Weeks (RWe)
Paul Wentzel (PaW)
Gene Wilhelm
Brian Williams
Lee Zieger
Barry Zimmer