

**North American Birds Report**  
**South Texas Sub-Region**  
**June 1- July 31, 2006**

The long drought was broken in the Coastal Bend with some heavy showers in early June. The Rio Grande Valley received some good moisture in late July as well. Temperatures for the period were seasonally hot, with the normal high humidity. No major tropical disturbances occurred.

*American Wigeon*... Three very late birds were found June 3 at Pollywog Pond, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, and three more were located June 11 in Flour Bluff, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, (MC). Oddly, three more were found June 11 near Alamo Beach, *Calhoun* (PH). This species is very rare in summer along the Gulf coast.

*Green-winged Teal*... A drake in eclipse plumage lingered at SANWR on June 17 for a late spring/summer record. (MG).

*Redhead*... Six pairs were found June 11 in a rice field near Alamo Beach, *Calhoun*, and are assumed to be lingering non-breeders (PH).

*Greater Scaup*... One was found June 27 at Magnolia Beach, *Calhoun*, for a very rare summer record (BF, PH).

*Lesser Scaup*... Sixteen birds, all paired, were found June 11 in a rice field near Alamo Beach, *Calhoun*, (PH). Small numbers of this species linger along the Texas coast in summer, but eight pairs were surprising.

*Yellow-nosed Albatross*.. One was carefully studied in the Gulf of Mexico from Padre Island National Seashore, *Kenedy and Willacy*, June 6 by Sandifer for 15 minutes, an extremely rare sighting from land. (BS, details to TBRC).

*Masked Booby*... One immature was seen June 15 and July 6 along the surf at South Padre Island, *Cameron* (BMc).

*Glossy Ibis*... Six were seen June 11 near Alamo Beach, *Calhoun*, where they nest nearby on a spoil island in Lavaca Bay (PH).

*Greater Flamingo*... One bird, likely an immature, was found around July 25 near Bayside, *Refugio*, feeding in marshy flats, and was present until at least July 31. It was determined that the bird was banded, but it had not been determined what the details or numbers of the band were. (CB, PH, RH, BR). It is somewhat likely that this is the same bird that had been in the area of St. Joseph Island and Goose Island State Park since Sept. 17, 2005 and until at least April 30, 2006. That bird was determined by its band numbers to have originated at the Rio Lagartos Reserve in Yucatan, Mexico where it had been banded in August, 2005.

*Hudsonian Godwit*...Six to seven birds found June 11 through July 9 near Alamo Beach, *Calhoun*, were puzzling and represented an extremely late (early?) date (BF, GH, PH). Five of the birds were in basic plumage. It could be speculated that these were simply non-breeding birds that interrupted or ended their migration.

***Brown Noddy***.. An adult bird was found July 13 on Padre Island National Seashore, *Kleberg*, in a very weakened condition along the beach. It was photographed and later recovered to fly away (PHa, *fide* BS).

*Burrowing Owl*...One was still present as of June 23 on the Laureles Division of the King Ranch, *Kleberg*, (TL, BW) for a rare June record within its historical breeding range.

***Mottled Owl***...An owl believed to be this species was discovered at Frontera Audubon Sanctuary, Weslaco, *Hidalgo* on July 5, and was reported three times until July 11. Attempts to photograph or audio-record the bird were unsuccessful (SK, BMc). Details were submitted to TBRC.

***Green-breasted Mango***...An immature was found July 8-9 in the yard of Terry Fuller in San Benito, *Cameron*. This is the yard that has produced two previous Green-breasted Mangos.

***Amethyst-throated Hummingbird***... A possible imm. or female of this species, *Lampornis amethystinus*, visited Fuller's yard in San Benito, *Cameron*, On July 4. The bird was photographed, and will be scrutinized by experts and the TBRC. It would represent a first US record. (TF).

*Buff-bellied Hummingbird*...Gustafson noted a remarkable influx of **30** of this species July 22 at the small woodland tract of Frontera Audubon Sanctuary, Weslaco, *Hidalgo*.

*Green Kingfisher*...One was spotted July 8 at the Matagorda County Birding Nature Center near Bay City, *Matagorda*, for an extralimital record this far east (RW, *fide* MS)

***Rose-throated Becard***... A lone female, present since late May, continued to build a nest at SANWR through June 17, but was apparently not seen thereafter, after no visible signs of incubating (MG).

*Yellow-green Vireo*... One pair was present at Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary, *Cameron*, from June 3 until at least July 22 (CB, *fide* BMc, JP).

*Eastern Bluebird*...One male June 15 at Flour Bluff, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, was again in breeding habitat near Live Oak stands. This is the nearest location to the Gulf that we know of for this species' nesting in the Coastal Bend (LJ).

*Cape May Warbler*...A very late spring migrant was found June 6 at South Padre Island, *Cameron* (SC, *fide* BMc).

*Gray-crowned Yellowthroat*...The Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron*, “resident” male was last reported on 3 June (CB).

Observers:

Chris Butler  
Scarlett Colley  
Mel Cooksey  
Brush Freeman  
Terry Fuller  
Mary Gustafson  
Paul Hare, Jr. (PHa)  
Gary Hodne  
Ray Hodson  
Petra Hockey  
Larry Jordan  
Selena King  
Tom Langschied  
Brad McKinney  
Jimmy Paz  
Bron Rorex  
Billy Sandifer  
Marilyn Sitz  
Ro Wauer  
Brian Williams

SANWR – Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Hidalgo County