

## AUGUST 2006 SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

With 1.40 inches of rain during August falling well below the average monthly totals of 2.51 inches, Lubbock continued its downward spiral into devastating drought; now at 5.53 inches for the year - well below average year-to-date totals of 12.91 inches. Dry statistics, indeed.

Waterfowl have been in fairly short supply, there has been little in the way of wandering waders, and shorebirds have been very spotty: where water has persisted in the region the usual array of shorebirds has been present but as very little water has persisted the overall abundance of shorebirds across the region has been low. Songbirds, particularly pewees and empids, seem to be doing well during the early stages of migration - the next two months could be quite interesting.

As always, the county is mentioned after the locale in ( ) and birds are deemed noteworthy due to rarity, unusual abundance, or unusual scarcity.

**NORTHERN SHOVELER:** 200 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) was a very good number; the highest reported from anywhere in the region - LOW EVERYWHERE ELSE.

**NORTHERN PINTAIL:** 18 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) was a not particularly impressive number but was the highest reported from anywhere in the region - LOW.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** 1700 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) was just plain impressive and the only flock of any size reported from the region - LOW EVERYWHERE ELSE.

**CINNAMON TEAL:** 10 near New Lynn (Lynn) on 8/19/06 (AnH) was the largest number reported during the period - LOW.

**REDHEAD:** 6 near New Lynn (Lynn) on 8/19/06 (AnH) was the largest number reported during the period - VERY LOW.

**EARED GREBE:** 1 at Lake Six (Lubbock) on 8/12/06 (AnH) and 7 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) were the only reports for the month - LOW.

**CLARK'S GREBE:** 1 discovered at Lake Six (Lubbock) on 8/7/06 (AW) persisted through at least 8/26/06 (AnH, GK, CS) - ACCIDENTAL FOR THE REGION; THE SEVENTH REPORT FOR THE REGION and THE FIRST AUGUST REPORT.

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Up to 2 at Maxey Park (Lubbock) and up to 6 at Leroy Elmore Park (Lubbock) during the period (AnH) - FORMERLY RARE IN AUGUST, NOW EXPECTED.

GREAT EGRET: 12 reports of 1-7 birds at nine sites in (Lubbock) throughout the period (BB, AnH, AvH, EM, TM, CR, FR) with 14 at the Maxey Park (Lubbock) roost on 8/10/06 (AnH) exemplary of the larger numbers possible.

SNOWY EGRET: 15 reports of 1-8 birds at 7 sites in (Crosby, Lubbock) throughout the period (AnH, AvH, EM, TM, CR, FR) with 25 at the Maxey Park (Lubbock) roost on 8/10/06 (AnH) and 12 at Dupree Park (Lubbock) on 8/23/06 (CR, FR) exemplary of the larger numbers possible.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: small numbers scattered throughout the region and period with 135 near Slide (Lubbock) on 8/13/06 (AnH) and 25 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) the largest groups reported - A TRIFLE LOW.

OSPREY: 1 over the LEAS Nature Trail (Lubbock) on 8/26/06 (DL) the first and only report so far this season - LATE and LOW.

NORTHERN HARRIER: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) typical of the low numbers found in the region during the summer - STATUS UNKNOWN.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: 1 immature over the LEAS Nature Trail (Lubbock) on 8/26/06 (DL, BB, AnH, LM, MM, AR) the first and only report so far this season - PROBABLY UNDERREPORTED IN OUR REGION.

PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) and one brought in to the SPWRC from Sudan (Hockley) on 8/19/06 (fide BB) - SUSPECTED BREEDER IN THE REGION.

PRAIRIE FALCON: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) the only report for the month - SUSPECTED BREEDER IN THE REGION.

VIRGINIA RAIL: 1 at Lake Six (Lubbock) on 8/12/06 (AnH) the only report - LOW.

KILLDEER, BLACK-NECKED STILT, AMERICAN AVOCET, GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS, SPOTTED SANDPIPER, BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, WESTERN SANDPIPER, LEAST SANDPIPER, STILT SANDPIPER, and LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER were all in roughly normal numbers at the extraordinarily few wet areas remaining in the region - OVERALL, LOW NUMBERS AND HARD TO FIND.

WILLET: 2 near Smyer (Hockley) on 8/19/06 (BB) the only report for the month: FORMERLY CONSIDERED ACCIDENTAL; NOW REPORTED ANNUALLY.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: 1 at Clapp Park (Lubbock) on 8/12/06 (AnH), 1 near Slide (Lubbock) on 8/13/06 (AnH), and 2 at Credit Lake (Kent) on 8/19/06 (AnH) the only reports - A TRIFLE LOW.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: 15 near Smyer (Hockley) on 8/19/06 (BB) the only report for the period - VERY LOW.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 1 near Needmore (Terry) on 8/13/06 (AnH), 2 near Slide (Lubbock) on 8/13/06 (AnH), and 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) the only reports - ABOUT AVERAGE.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: 1 south of Crosbyton (Crosby) on 8/5/06 and 8/6/06 (AnH) the only report for the month - VERY LOW.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 14 near New Lynn (Lynn) on 8/19/06 (AnH) fairly typical of numbers encountered in the region during August; 5000+ at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) an INCREDIBLE REPORT.

COMMON TERN: 1 at Chas Guy Park (Lubbock) on 8/21/06 (BB) and 1 at Dupree Park (Lubbock) on 8/30/06 (EM, TM) the second and third reports of the season - GOOD NUMBERS FOR THE REGION.

FORSTER'S TERN: 1-4 at Dupree Park (Lubbock) from 8/16/06 to 8/27/06 (CR, FR, AnH, EM, TM), 1 at Leroy Elmore Park (Lubbock) on 8/19/06 (AnH), and 2 at Buffalo Springs Lake (Lubbock) on 8/26/06 (AnH, DL) made for a better season than those of the last several years - GOOD NUMBERS.

LEAST TERN: 1 near New Lynn (Lynn) on 8/19/06 (AnH) - CLOSE TO ACCIDENTAL; THE FOURTH AUGUST RECORD FOR THE REGION.

BLACK TERN: 9 reports of 1-7 birds throughout the region (Bailey, Crosby, Garza, Kent, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry) and period (BB, AnH, DL, CR, FR, AR, TS) - NO EXCEPTIONAL NUMBERS REPORTED, BUT NICELY SPREAD OUT AND EASILY FOUND.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 male in a Lubbock yard on 8/18/06 (KD) - THE FIRST AUGUST RECORD FOR THE REGION; ACCIDENTAL FOR THE MONTH.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: 1 male at Clapp Park (Lubbock) on 8/12/06 (AnH) the only report so far this season - LOW?

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 immature male at a Lubbock yard from 8/22/06-8/3/06 (KD), 1 adult male with odd plumage but typical flight sounds in the same yard from 8/29/06-8/31/06 (KD), 1 female at Clapp Park (Lubbock) on 8/26/06 (DL) - TYPICAL NUMBERS?

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1 male in a Lubbock yard on 8/7/06 (KD), 1 female in the same yard from 8/25/06-8/28/06 (DK), and 1 male in another Lubbock yard on 8/27/06 (AnH) - A LITTLE LOW.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: 1 south of Crosbyton (Crosby) on 8/19/06 (AnH) the only report for the month - VERY LOW.

WESTERN WOOD PEWEE: 7 reports of 1-6 birds throughout the region (Bailey, Crosby, Kent, Lubbock, Lynn) and period (BB - first report, AnH, DL, LM, MM, AR) - A VERY GOOD START FOR THE SEASON.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: 8 reports of 1-3 birds throughout the region (Crosby, Hockley, Keny, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry) and period (DL - first report, BB, AnH, LM, MM, AR) - A VERY GOOD START FOR THE SEASON.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: 12 reports of 1-3 birds throughout the region (Bailey, Crosby, Garza, Kent, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry) and period (AnH - first report, BB, DL, LM, MM, AR) - A VERY GOOD START FOR THE SEASON.

CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER: 1 near New Lynn (Lynn) and 1 south of Crosbyton (Crosby) on 8/19/06 (AnH) the only reports so far this season - LOW.

SAY'S PHOEBE: 1 near Clairemont (Kent) on 8/19/06 (AnH) a rare summer report for the region.

EASTERN KINGBIRD: 2 near White River Lake (Crosby) on 8/6/06 (AnH, AvH) the only report for the month - VERY RARE IN THE REGION.

BELL'S VIREO: 1 singing in Clairemont (Kent) on 8/19/06 (AnH) - VERY RARE IN THE REGION.

WARBLING VIREO: 1 singing at Lake Six (Lubbock) on 8/12/06 (AnH), 1 along Duck Creek (Kent) on 8/19/06 (AnH), and 1 at the Kent County Golf Course (Kent) on 8/26/06 (TS) - A GOOD START TO THE SEASON, WE HOPE.

COMMON RAVEN: 2 south of Crosbyton (Crosby) on 8/5/06 (AnH, AvH) and 1 near Jayton (Kent) on 8/29/06 (AnH) - A SPECIES IN THE MIDST OF RE-ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN THE REGION.

PURPLE MARTIN: 1-2 at White River Lake from 8/5/06-8/6/06 (AnH), 1 at Maxey Park (Lubbock) on 8/10/06 (AnH), and 4 near Needmore (Terry) on 8/13/06 (AnH) the only reports - VERY LOW.

TREE SWALLOW: 8 near Slide (Lubbock) on 8/13/06 (AnH) the only report so far this month - A TRIFLE LOW.

CAVE SWALLOW: 4 with nests in a Culvert near Verbena (Garza) on 8/19/06 (AnH) - CONTINUING THE SPECIES' PRESENCE IN THE REGION.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: 4 at the Kent County Golf Course (Kent) on 8/26/06 (TS) the only report for the month - LOW.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: 15 at the Kent County Golf Course (Kent) on 8/26/06 (TS) - VERY GOOD NUMBERS FOR THE REGION.

HERMIT THRUSH: 2 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) - QUITE EARLY; ONLY THE SECOND AUGUST RECORD FOR THE REGION.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 1 at the Kent County Golf Course (Kent) on 8/26/06 (TS) - THE NINTH AUGUST RECORD FOR THE REGION; SEVEN OF THESE RECORDS FROM THE LAST EIGHT YEARS.

YELLOW WARBLER: 16 reports of 1-6 birds throughout the region (Bailey, Crosby, Garza, Hockley, Kent, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry) and period (DL - first report, BB, AnH, TS) - A GOOD START.

WILSON'S WARBLER: 1 in a Lubbock yard on 8/21/06 (KD), 1 in another Lubbock yard from 8/24/06-8/28/06 (AnH), another in a Lubbock yard on 8/25/06 (KD), and 1 at the LEAS Nature Trail (Lubbock) on 8/26/06 (BB, AnH) - A SLOW START.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 1 at White River Lake (Crosby) on 8/5/06 (AnH) the only report - NO VISITS TO THE REGION' S ONLY KNOWN BREEDING SITE.

WESTERN TANAGER: 1 (reported late) from a Lubbock yard on 7/31/06 (JC) the first report for the season - VERY NICE.

CHIPPING SPARROW: 1 at Clapp Park (Lubbock) no 8/13/06 (DL) the first and only report so far this season - LOW.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: 1 female at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 8/19/06 (BB) the first and only report so far this season - LOW.

LAZULI BUNTING: 1 male at Silver Springs Rest Area (Crosby) on 8/20/06 (DL) the first and only report so far this season - LOW.

INDIGO BUNTING: 1 male at White River Lake (Crosby) on 8/5/06 (AnH), 1 male near Ropesville (Hockley) on 8/13/06 (AnH), 1 male near Verbena (Garza) on 8/19/06 (AnH), and 1 at the Kent County Golf Course (Kent) on 8/26/06 (TS) - NICELY SCATTERED REPORTS; SOME MAY BE BREEDERS; ALL MIGHT BE MIGRANTS.

BRONZED COWBIRD: 1 female and 1 male at White River Lake (Crosby) on 8/5/06 (AnH, AvH) the only report - LOW, BY CURRENT STANDARDS.

OBSERVERS: BB=Brandon Best, JC=Jim Crites, KD=Ken Dixon, AnH=Anthony Hewetson, AvH=Aveline Hewetson, GK=Glenda Keilstrup, DL=David Lukas, LM=Lori

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