

NOVEMBER 2006 SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS:

Lubbock received a whopping 0.16 inches of rain (plus 3.1 inches of snow - however that may end up factoring in) during November, bringing us to 5.53 inches below average year-to-date totals of 18.12 inches. In other words, things are beginning to look a bit drought-stricken again. Water remained findable through most of the region until the end of the month, however, and waterfowl numbers, with the exception of geese, were good; shorebirds remained in good numbers; songbirds continued to surprise.

As always, the county follows the site in () and birds are listed due to typical rarity, atypical rarity, or atypical abundance.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: No reports - VERY LOW.

SNOW GOOSE: 2 near Floydada (Floyd) on 11/5/06 (AnH) and 1 near Post (Garza) on 11/12/06 (BB) the only reports - VERY LOW.

ROSS'S GOOSE: No reports - VERY LOW.

CAACKLING GOOSE: Now well-reported, in large numbers, from Lubbock every winter, 75 near Floydada (Floyd) on 11/4/06 (BB) and 14 near Ralls (Crosby) on 11/5/06 (AnH) were nice reports away from Lubbock County.

WOOD DUCK: 2 at Whisperwood Pond (Lubbock) on 11/5/06 (AnH) and 2 near Steele Hill (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) the only reports - LOW.

GADWALL, AMERICAN WIGEON, MALLARD, NORTHERN SHOVELER, NORTHERN PINTAIL, GREEN-WINGED TEAL, RING-NECKED DUCK, LESSER SCAUP, BUFFLEHEAD, HOODED MERGANSER, RUDDY DUCK: were all easily found in good numbers throughout the region and period (BB, AnH, CR, FR).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: 10 at the Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 11/4/06 (AnH) the only report - LOW.

CINNAMON TEAL: 3 near Ralls (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB) the only report - LOW.

CANVASBACK: 1 in (Floyd) on 11/4/06 (BB), 41 near Abernathy (Hale) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 1 near Steele Hill (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 2 near Floydada (Floyd) on 11/5/06 (AnH), and 11 near Ralls (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB) - GOOD NUMBERS BY RECENT STANDARDS.

REDHEAD: 3 in (Floyd) on 11/4/06 (BB), 6 near Ralls (Crosby) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 4 near Petersburg (Hale) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 117 near Abernathy (Hale) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 2 near Steele Hill (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 46 near Floydada (Floyd) on 11/5/06 (AnH), and 6 at Earl Crow Park (Lubbock) on 11/12/06 (BB) - GOOD NUMBERS AND GREAT SCATTER BY RECENT STANDARDS.

GREATER SCAUP: 2 near Grassland (Lynn) on 11/25/06 (AnH) the only report - INCREASINGLY REPORTED FROM THE REGION.

COMMON LOON: 1 (probably a bird released by the SPWRC) at Lake Six (Lubbock) on 11/21/06 (PK) and then through 11/29/06 (BB, PK, AR, JR) - OUR FIRST LOON IN SOME TIME - COUNTABILITY UP FOR DEBATE.

GREAT EGRET: 1 at Dupree Park (Lubbock) through 11/19/06 (CR, FR), 1 at Clapp Park (Lubbock) on 11/19/06 (BB), and 2 at Clapp Park (Lubbock) on 11/29/06 (BB) - PROBABLE ATTEMPTS AT OVERWINTERING; A RECENT PHENOMENA IN OUR REGION.

SNOWY EGRET: 1 at Earl Crow Park (Lubbock) on 11/5/06 (BB) and 3 at Clapp Park (Lubbock) on 11/19/06 (BB) the last reports for the year - LATE LINGERERS.

TURKEY VULTURE: 1 over Lubbock on 11/19/06 (LS) - LATE LINGERER BUT NO LONGER TERRIBLY SURPRISING IN NOVEMBER.

HARRIS'S HAWK: 1 adult at Escondido Canyon (Lubbock) on 11/24/06 (TS) - VERY RARE IN THE REGION.

MERLIN: 1 near Plains (Yoakum) on 11/4/06 (AnH), 1 near Dickens (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH), and 1 in Lubbock on 11/28/06 (BB) the only reports - LOW?

PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 in south Lubbock on 11/12/06 (BB) - STATUS UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT.

VIRGINIA RAIL: 1 at the Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 11/4/06 (AnH) the only report - LOW?

SORA: 1 at the Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 11/4/06 (AnH) and 1 at Post City Park (Garza) on 11/12/06 (BB) the only reports - LOW?

AMERICAN AVOCET: 2 near Floydada (Floyd) on 11/4/06 (BB), 3 near Crosbyton (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB), and 6 at White River Lake (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB) - CONSISTENT WITH THE RECENT PATTERN OF LINGERING INTO NOVEMBER.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS: 8 reports of 2-20 birds throughout the region (Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Lubbock) and period (BB, AnH) - GOOD NUMBERS AND NICE SCATTER.

LEAST SANDPIPER: 4 near Ralls (Crosby) on 11/5/06 (AnH) and 50+ near Crosbyton (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB) - GOOD NUMBERS FOR NOVEMBER.

STILT SANDPIPER: 1 at Clapp Park (Lubbock) on 11/19/06 (BB) - ONLY THE SECOND NOVEMBER RECORD AND, BY A FEW DAYS, THE MOST TARDY.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: 5 reports of 1-28 birds scattered throughout the region (Crosby, Floyd, Lubbock, Lynn) and period (BB, AnH, AvH, RiL) - GOOD NUMBERS FOR NOVEMBER.

WILSON'S SNIBE: 5 reports of 1-3 birds scattered throughout the region (Cochran, Crosby, Garza, Lubbock) and period (BB, AnH) - LOW?

BONAPARTE'S GULL: 2 at White River Lake (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB) - RARE IN OUR REGION.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1 immature male lingered in a Lubbock yard through 11/22/06 (JD) - A POSSIBLE WINTERING ATTEMPT.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: 2 near Afton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) - GOOD FOR NOVEMBER.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: 1 near Afton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) - A GOOD REPORT FROM OUR BEST SITE.

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER: 1 at Yoakum County Park (Yoakum) on 11/4/06 (AnH) - RARE THOUGH INCREASINGLY REPORTED IN OUR REGION.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (Them's fightin' words): 2 near Afton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) and 1 along Ballard Creek (Motley) on 11/5/06 (AnH) the only reports - NOT SEEN EVERY WINTER THESE YEARS.

DOWNY WOODPECKER: 2 near Afton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) and 1 in Matador (Motley) on 11/5/06 (AnH) - A NICE START FOR THE SEASON.

EASTERN PHOEBE: 1 in Coleman Park (Terry) on 11/4/06 (AnH), 2 at Yoakum County Park (Yoakum) on 11/4/06 (AnH), 1 near Spur (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH), and 1 in near Afton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) - A NICE SCATTER.

SAY'S PHOEBE: 1 near Lehman (Cochran) on 11/4/06 (AnH) the only report - LOW?

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: 1 immature male east of Lubbock (Lubbock) on 11/4/06 (KM) - RARE IN OUR REGION.

WESTERN SCRUB JAY: 2 in Swenson Park, Spur (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) - INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO FIND IN OUR REGION.

COMMON RAVEN: 2 near Dickens (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) - STEADILY INCREASING IN THE REGION.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: 1 at the Roaring Springs Sewage Ponds (Motley) on 11/5/06 (AnH) - OUR TARDIEST REPORT - the only previous November record: 11/3/1990.

BUSHTIT: 10 along the Quitaque Canyon Trail (Floyd) on 11/4/06 (BB) the only report - HARD TO FIND IN OUR REGION.

CANYON WREN: 1 along the Quitaque Canyon Trail (Floyd) on 11/4/06 (BB) the only report - INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO FIND IN OUR REGION.

WINTER WREN: 1 at Yoakum County Park (Yoakum) on 11/4/06 (AnH), 1 along the White River (Floyd) on 11/5/06 (AnH), and 1 at White River Lake (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB) - A GOOD START FOR THE SEASON.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: 3 at Yoakum County Park (Yoakum) on 11/4/06 (AnH) and 2 near Afton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) - HOPEFULLY, A GOOD START FOR THE SEASON.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: 10-20 near Wolfforth (Lubbock) from 10/27/06 through 11/2/06 (LW), 6 near Croton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 14 at East Mound Cemetery (Motley) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 7 near Boothe (Floyd) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 4 at Lubbock Lake Landmark (Lubbock) on 11/10/06 (RoL), 22 near White River Lake (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB), and 10-12 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 11/26/06 (AR, JR) - A GREAT START FOR THE SEASON.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: 1 near Post (Garza) on 11/23/06 (AnH) and 1 in a Lubbock yard on 11/29/06 (KD) - HOPEFULLY, THE START OF A GOOD WINTER.

SAGE THRASHER: 1 near Plains (Yoakum) on 11/4/06 (AnH) and 1 near Abernathy (Hale) on 11/5/06 (AnH) the only reports - AVERAGE?

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 8 reports of 1-3 birds throughout the region (Cochran, Dickens, Floyd, Hockley, Lubbock, Motley, Terry) and period (BB, AnH) - MUCH BETTER THAN LAST YEAR.

NASHVILLE WARBLER: 1 at Yoakum County Park (Yoakum) on 11/4/06 (AnH) and 1 at Swenson Park, Spur (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) - ON THE TARDY SIDE FOR THE REGION.

PINE WARBLER: 1 at Swenson Park, Spur (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) - RARE IN OUR REGION, A FIRST COUNTY RECORD.

WILSON'S WARBLER: 1 at Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 11/4/06 (AnH) - VERY TARDY; OUR FIRST NOVEMBER RECORD SINCE 1980.

SPOTTED TOWHEE, FIELD SPARROW, VESPER SPARROW, SAVANNAH SPARROW, LARK BUNTING, SONG SPARROW, LINCOLN'S SPARROW, SWAMP SPARROW, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, DARK-EYED JUNCO: all readily findable, most in good numbers, throughout the region and period (BB, AnH) - MUCH BETTER THAN LAST YEAR.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: 1 near Afton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) the only reports so far this season - RARE IN OUR REGION.

CHIPPING SPARROW: 1 in Coleman Park (Terry) on 11/4/06 (AnH), 2 at Yoakum County Park (Yoakum) on 11/4/06 (AnH), and 1 at the Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 11/4/06 (AnH) - THE LAST HURRAH FOR THE YEAR?

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 at Yoakum County Park (Yoakum) on 11/4/06 (AnH), 2 near Lehman (Cochran) on 11/4/06 (AnH), and 9 at the Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 11/4/06 (AnH) - RARE IN NOVEMBER.

BAIRD'S SPARROW: 1 southwest of Lehman (Cochran) on 11/4/06 (AnH) - ACCIDENTAL IN THE REGION, THE FIRST REPORTED SINCE 2001 - A REPORT HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE TBRC.

FOX SPARROW: 1 near Afton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 1 at East Mound Cemetery (Motley) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 1 along the White River (Floyd) on 11/5/06 (AnH), and 3 at White River Lake (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB) - GOOD NUMBERS - MUCH BETTER THAN LAST YEAR.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: 1 near Afton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) and 1 at White River Lake (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB) - A NICE START FOR THE SEASON.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: 1 at White River Lake (Crosby) on 11/18/06 (BB) - A GREAT FIND AND, HOPEFULLY, JUST THE START.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 2 near Petersburg (Hale) on 11/5/06 (AnH), 1 near Floydada (Floyd) on 11/5/06 (AnH), and 1 near Justiceburg (Garza) on 11/13/06 (AnH) - RARE IN OUR REGION DURING THE WINTER.

PINE SISKIN: 12 near Afton (Dickens) on 11/5/06 (AnH) the first and only report so far this season - LATE AND LOW.

LESSER GOLDFINCH: 1 in a Lubbock yard on 11/5/06 (BB) - RARE IN OUR REGION DURING THE WINTER.

OBSERVERS: BB=Brandon Best, KD=Ken Dixon, JD=Jewel Downing, AnH=Anthony Hewetson, AvH=Aveline Hewetson, PK=Phillip Kite, RiL=Richmond Lee, RoL=Rob Lee, KM=Kevin McLaran, AR=Anona Roberts, JR=Jerry Roberts, CR=Clarice Robertson, FR=Floyd Robertson, LS=Laura Sare, TS=Tom SoRelle, LW=Lois Wallace

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