

SEPTEMBER 2006 SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS:

We managed to pull in (reports vary) 6.76 inches of rain in September, bringing the year-to-date totals to 12.29 inches - still 3.22 inches below expected year-to-date totals and by no means out of the drought. Still, waders and shorebirds were much more easily found throughout the region than at any other point during the year ... and even migrant songbirds seemed to rally a bit.

The county follows the site in () and birds are, as always listed due to expected rarity, unusual rarity, or unusual abundance.

SNOW GOOSE: 1 at Morton City Park (Cochran) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) was certainly unexpected but appeared both unhurt and wild - ACCIDENTAL FOR MONTH.

CINNAMON TEAL: 4 north of Whiteface (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH) was the only report - LOW.

REDHEAD: 2 at Whisperwood Pond (Lubbock) on 9/3/06 (AnH), 4 north of Whiteface (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH), and 40 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) were the only reported for the month - LOW.

EARED GREBE: 32 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) were the only reported for the month - LOW.

CLARK'S GREBE: 1 at Lake Six (Lubbock) through at least 9/15/06 (BB, AnH, PK, DL) - a continuation of the SEVENTH RECORD FOR THE REGION - ACCIDENTAL.

GREAT EGRET: 14 reports of 1-4 birds at sites in (Lubbock) throughout the period (BB, AnH, AvH, CR, FR) - ABOUT AVERAGE.

SNOWY EGRET: 22 reports of 1-11 birds at sites in (Lubbock) throughout the period (BB, AnH, AvH, PK, CR, FR) - ABOUT AVERAGE - 1 near Springlake (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH) - AN UNUSUAL LOCATION.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: 11 reports of 2-29 birds scattered throughout the region (Cochran, Crosby, Hale, Lamb, Lubbock) and period (BB, AnH, AvH, DL) - ABOUT AVERAGE.

OSPREY: 6 reports of single birds at sites in (Lubbock) throughout the period (BB, JH, AnH) and 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) - ABOUT AVERAGE.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: 1 near Whiteface (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH), 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/23/06 (BB), 1 near Cofferville (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH), and 1 at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the only reports so far - A TRIFLE LOW.

COOPER'S HAWK: 1 along White River (Dickens) on 9/16/06 (BB, AnH, DL) and 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/23/06 (BB) the only reports so far - A TRIFLE LOW.

HARRIS'S HAWK: 1 adult along Highway 84 near Shallowater (Lubbock) on 9/23/06 (AnH) the first report in the region for the year - BECOMING ACCIDENTAL.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: 1 immature brought into the SPWRC from (Lubbock) on 9/29/06 (BB) the only report for the month - LOW.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: 1 at City Farms (Lubbock) on 9/8/06 (AnH) was the first report for the season; widely scattered throughout from 9/15/06 on - ABOUT AVERAGE.

MERLIN: 1 near Springlake (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH) was the first and only report so far this season - A TRIFLE LOW.

PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 immature brought into the SPWRC from Wolfforth (Lubbock) on 9/13/06 (BB) - STATUS POORLY UNDERSTOOD.

VIRGINIA RAIL: 1 at Mae Simmons Park (Lubbock) on 9/9/06 (BB) the only reported - LOW.

SORA: 1 at Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH) the only reported - LOW.

SANDHILL CRANE: 17 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the first and only report so far this season - LATE AND LOW.

KILLDEER, BLACK-NECKED STILT, AMERICAN AVOCET, GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS, SPOTTED SANDPIPER, SEMIPALMATED and WESTERN and LEAST SANDPIPERS, STILT SANDPIPERS, and LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS: at or near normal numbers throughout the period and region at recently-filled plays - A RECOVERED SHOREBIRD SEASON!

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: 7 at a playa south of Crosbyton (Crosby) on 9/16/06 (BB, AnH, DL) - UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER - and 1 at the LEAS Nature Trail (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the only reports - FEW SIGHTINGS, GOOD NUMBERS.

WILLET: 1 near Springlake (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH) the only report - ANNUAL BUT VERY RARE.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 1 near Springlake (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH) the only report - LOW.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: 2 near Cotton Center (Hale) on 9/23/06 (AnH) the only report - VERY LOW.

WILSON'S SNIPE: 1 south of Crosbyton (Crosby) on 9/16/06 (AnH), 1 at the Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH), and 1 near Cotton Center (Hale) on 9/23/06 (AnH) - A TRIFLE LOW.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 2500+ at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) - UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER - 5 south of Crosbyton (Crosby) on 9/16/06 (BB, AnH, DL), 6 near Springlake (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH), 2 near Cotton Center (Hale) on 9/23/06 (AnH) the only other reports - LOW.

RING-BILLED GULL: No reports at all - UNUSUALLY LATE AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF BEING UNUSUALLY EARLY.

SABINE'S GULL: 1 immature at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/23/06 (BB) - ACCIDENTAL; THE FIFTH RECORD FOR THE REGION; THE THIRD SEPTEMBER RECORD; A COUNTY FIRST.

BLACK TERN: 14 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL), 2 at Earl Crow Park (Lubbock) on 9/10/06 (BB), 3 at Lorenzo (Crosby) on 9/16/06 (BB, AnH, DL), 3 at Earl Crow Park (Lubbock) on 9/16/06 (BB), and 2 near Mayfield (Hale) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH) - MUCH BETTER THAN RECENT YEARS.

COMMON POORWILL: 1 in a Lubbock yard on 9/10/06 (BB), 1 late immature (still grounded) at White River Lake (Crosby) on 9/16/06 (AnH), and 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the only reports - POORLY UNDERSTOOD IN THE REGION.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 male in a Lubbock yard from 9/4/06-9/6/06 and 1 male in the same yard from 9/10/06-9/11/06 (KD) - A GOOD SEASON for this rare species.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 female in a Lubbock yard from 9/1/06-9/3/06 and 1 male in the same yard on 9/15/06 (KD), several in another Lubbock yard through 9/17/06 (JC) - FORMERLY ACCIDENTAL IN SEPTEMBER; NOW REMAIN ANNUALLY.

BLACK-CHINNED X BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD: a well-described male - apparently a hybrid - remained in a Lubbock yard from 8/28/06 though 9/6/06 (KD) - this is one of the more commonly documented hummingbird hybrids but would represent a FIRST RECORD FOR OUR REGION.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 male in a Lubbock yard on 9/1/06 (KD), 1 immature male in the same yard from 9/1/06-9/3/06 (KD), 1 male in another Lubbock yard on 9/8/06 (AnH), and 1 in yet another Lubbock yard on 9/13/06 (JC) - A GOOD SEASON.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1 immature male in a Lubbock yard from 9/4/06 -9/6/06, another immature male in the same yard from 9/10/06-9/11/06, yet another immature male in the same yard on 9/16/06 (KD), and 1 female at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the only reports - LOW.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: 1 immature at the LEAS Nature Trail (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) - UNUSUALLY FAR WEST FOR OUR REGION.

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER: 3 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) and 2 at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on the same date (AnH) - VERY GOOD NUMBERS and ODDLY SYNCHRONIZED.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: 5 reports of singles from (Lamb, Lubbock) during the period (BB, AnH, DL) - LOW.

WESTERN WOOD PEWEE: 5 reports of 1-3 birds from (Bailey, Cochran, Lubbock) during the period (BB, AnH, DL) and a stunning report of 14 at Yoakum County Park on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) - UNEXCEPTIONAL SAVE FOR THE LATTER REPORT.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: 3 reports of 1-3 birds from (Bailey, Lubbock) during the month (BB, AnH, DL) - LOW.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: 6 reports of 1-2 birds from (Bailey, Cochran, Hale, Lubbock, Yoakum) during the period (BB, AnH, DL) - A BIT HIGH.

CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER: 3 reports of singles from (Lubbock) during the period (AnH, PK, EM, TM) - A TRIFLE LOW.

GRAY FLYCATCHER: 1 at the Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH) and 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) - AVERAGE.

EASTERN PHOEBE: 1 at White River Lake (Crosby) on 9/16/06 (BB) and 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the only reports - LOW.

SAY'S PHOEBE: 1 at Buffalo Springs Lake (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) and 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the only reports - LOW.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: 1 immature male at the Kent County Golf Course (Kent) on 9/28/06 (TS) - VERY RARE IN THE REGION.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD: 1 near Bula (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the only report - LOW.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: No reports after 9/6/06 - AN EARLY DEPARTURE?

CASSIN'S VIREO: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/23/06 (BB) - A RARE REPORT FOR OUR REGION.

PLUMBEOUS VIREO: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) - NOT UNEXPECTED BUT RARE.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO: 1 at Yoakum County Park (Yoakum) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) and 1 at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) - NOT UNEXPECTED BUT RARE.

WARBLING VIREO: 1 at the LEAS Nature Trail (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the only report - LOW.

TREE SWALLOW: 875+ at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) - PROBABLY A RECORD HIGH NUMBER FOR THE REGION - 18 at Whisperwood Pond (Lubbock) on 9/3/06 (AnH), 4 at Leroy Elmore Park (Lubbock) on 9/4/06 (AnH), 1 at Lorenzo (Crosby) on 9/16/06 (BB, AnH, DL), 1 near Idalou (Lubbock) on 9/16/06 (DL), 12 near Springlake (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH), 8 near Cofferville (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH), 14 near Mayfield (Hale) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH), and 4 at Buffalo Springs Lake (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) - UNUSUALLY GOOD SEASON FOR THIS SPECIES.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW: 2 near Springlake (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH) the only report - ABOUT AVERAGE THESE YEARS.

BANK SWALLOW: 4 reports of 1-2 birds from (Bailey, Crosby, Lamb, Lubbock) during the period (BB, AnH, AvH, DL) - LOW.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: 1 at Cochran County Park (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH), 4 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/23/06 (BB), and 1 at Blackwater Draw (Hale) on 9/23/06 (AnH) the first three reports for the season - A TRIFLE LATE.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: 2 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) and 1 at Lake Six (Lubbock) on 9/15/06 (AnH) - STILL RARE IN THE REGION.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: 10 at the Kent County Golf Course (Kent) on 9/28/06 (TS) the only report so far - LOW.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: 1 in a Lubbock yard on 9/27/06 (KD) the only report so far - LOW.

HERMIT THRUSH: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/23/06 had become 6 on 9/30/06 (BB), 1 at the LEAS Nature Trail and 2 at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the only reports so far this season - LOW.

GRAY CATBIRD: 1 east of White River (Dickens) on 9/16/06 (AnH, DL) the only report for the month - A TRIFLE LOW.

SAGE THRASHER: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) and 1 near Whiteface (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH) - ACCIDENTAL FOR THE MONTH!

AMERICAN PIPIT: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/23/06 (BB) and 7 at Dupree Park (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the first reports for the season - ACCIDENTAL FOR THE MONTH!

CEDAR WAXWING: 6 near the TTU campus (Lubbock) on 9/27/06 (JST) and 1 at the Kent County Golf Course (Kent) on 9/27/06 (TS) the first reports.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: 1 at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the only report - LOW.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 4 reports of 1-4 birds from (Bailey, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock) from 9/15/06 on (BB, AnH) the only reports - LATE AND LOW.

NASHVILLE WARBLER: 4 reports of 1-2 birds from (Bailey, Dickens, Hockley, Lubbock) during the month (BB, JC, AnH, DL) - ABOUT AVERAGE.

YELLOW WARBLER: 1 at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on 9/8/06 (AnH) and 1 at Cochran County Park (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH) the only reports - VERY LOW.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: 6 reports of 1-12 birds from (Bailey, Crosby, Lamb, Lubbock) from 9/2/06 on (BB, AnH, DL) - ABOUT AVERAGE.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: 1 on the TTU HSC campus (Lubbock) on 9/14/06 (AnH) and 1 near Springlake (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH) - FORMERLY CONSIDERED ACCIDENTAL, NOW ANNUAL.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: 1 in a Lubbock yard on 9/17/06 (JC) - ACCIDENTAL FOR THE REGION.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER: 2 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL), 1 at Lake Six (Lubbock) on 9/15/06 (AnH), and 1 at the Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH) the only reports - LOW.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: 1 at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the only report - VERY LOW.

WILSON'S WARBLER: 16 reports of 1-12 birds throughout region (Bailey, Cochran, Dickens, Hale, Hockley, Lubbock, Yoakum) and period (BB, JC, KD, AnH, AvH, DL) - A TRIFLE LOW.

WESTERN TANAGER: 1 female at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/2/06 (BB, AnH, DL) and 1 female at Blackwater Draw (Hale) on 9/23/06 (AnH) the only reports - LOW, BY RECENT STANDARDS.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/23/06 (BB) the only report - A TRIFLE LOW.

SPOTTED TOWHEE: 1 in a Lubbock yard from 9/27/06-9/29/06 (KD) and 1 at the LEAS Nature Trail (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the first reports of the season.

CHIPPING SPARROW: 5 reports of 1-15 birds from (Bailey, Cochran) during the month (BB, AnH, DL) the only reports - VERY LOW.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 10 reports of 1-24 birds from (Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock) during the month (BB, JC, AnH, PK, DL) - ABOUT AVERAGE.

BREWER'S SPARROW: 2 at the Cochran County Golf Course (Cochran) on 9/22/06 (AnH) the only report - STATUS UNCERTAIN IN THE REGION.

FIELD SPARROW: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the first report of the season - LOW.

VESPER SPARROW: 10 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the first report of the season - LATE AND LOW.

SAVANNAH SPARROW: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the first report of the season - LATE AND LOW.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) and 1 at City Farms (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the only reports for the month - LOW.

SONG SPARROW: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the first report - TYPICAL.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/23/06 (BB), 2 at the LEAS Nature Trail (Lubbock) and 1 at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the first reports for the season - TYPICAL.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: 23 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) and 2 at the LEAS Nature Trail (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the first of the season - TYPICAL.

DARK-EYED JUNCO: 2 at the LEAS Nature Trail (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the first report of the season - ACCIDENTAL FOR THE MONTH; EARLY.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: 1 at Lake Six (Lubbock) on 9/6/06 (DL) and 1 male at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on 9/30/06 (AnH) the only reports - LOW?

LAZULI BUNTING: 1 male at Ransom Lake (Lubbock) on 9/8/06 (AnH) the only report - LOW.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 2 at Lake Six (Lubbock) on 9/17/06 (KK), 30 near Mayfield (Hale) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH), and 1 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the only reports - LOW.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: 80 near Springlake (Lamb) on 9/23/06 (AnH, AvH) and 15 at Muleshoe NWR (Bailey) on 9/30/06 (BB) the first of the season - ACTUALLY, PRETTY GOOD!

ORCHARD ORIOLE: No reports for the month - EARLY DEPARTURE.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: 1 at White River Lake (Crosby) on 9/16/06 (BB, AnH, DL) the latest reported - ANOTHER EARLY DEPARTURE?

OBSERVERS: BB=Brandon Best, JC=Jim Crites, KD=Ken Dixon, JH=Jerry Hatfield, AnH=Anthony Hewetson, AvH=Aveline Hewetson, KK=Kelly King, PK=Phillip Kite, DL=David Lukas, EM=Ellen McBride, TM=Toby McBride, CR=Clarice Robertson, FR=Floyd Robertson, TS=Tom SoRelle, JST=Jo-Szu (Ross) Tsai.

Anthony Hewetson
terrverts@yahoo.com
Field Notes Compiler,
Llano Estacado Audubon Society
www.leas.bizland.com