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TEXAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2001

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The Texas Bird Records Committee (hereafter “TBRC” or “committee”) of the Texas Ornithological Society requests and reviews documentation on any record of a TBRC Review List species (see Lockwood 2000 or TBRC web page at <http://members.tripod.com/~tbrc/>). Annual reports of the committee’s activities



Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) photographed at Aransas Bay, Aransas Co. Photo by Mel Cooksey.

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have appeared in the Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society since 1984. For more information about the Texas Ornithological Society or the TBRC, please visit www.texasbirds.org. The committee reached a final decision on 206 records during 2001: 154 records of 68 species were accepted and 52 records of 45 species were not accepted, an acceptance rate of 74.8% for this report. There were 216 observers who submitted documentation (to the TBRC or to other entities) that was reviewed by the committee during 2001.

In 2001 no additional species were added to the state list and the official Texas State List remains at 620 species in good standing. This total does not include the five species listed on the Presumptive Species List.

In addition to the review of previously undocumented species, any committee member may request that a record of any species be reviewed. The numbers of accepted records are also listed for California Gull, which was recently removed from the Review List. The committee desires written descriptions for all Review List species as well as photographs, video, and audio recordings if available. Information concerning a Review List species may be submitted to the committee secretary, Mark Lockwood, 6710 Lancret Hill Drive, Austin, Texas 78745-6527 (email: mark.lockwood@tpwd.state.tx.us). Guidelines for preparing rare bird documentation can be found in Dittmann and Lasley (1992).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the AOU Check-list of North American Birds (AOU 1998) through the 42nd supplement (AOU 2000). A number in parentheses after the species name represents the total number of accepted records in Texas for that species at the end of 2001. All observers who submitted written documentation or photographs of accepted records are acknowledged by initials. If known, the initials of those who discovered a particular bird are in boldface but only if the discoverers submitted supporting documentation. The TBRC file number of each accepted record will follow the observers' initials. If photographs or video recordings are on file with the TBRC, the Texas Photo Record File (TPRF) (Texas A&M University) number is also given. If an audio recording of the bird is on file with the TBRC, the Texas Bird Sounds Library (TBSL) (Sam Houston State University) number is also given. Specimen records are denoted with an asterisk (*) followed by the institution where the specimen is housed and the catalog number. The information in each account is usually based on the information provided in the original submitted documentation; however, in some cases this information has been supplemented with a full range of dates the bird was present if that information was made available to the TBRC later. All locations in italics are counties.

TBRC Membership—Members of the TBRC during 2001 who participated in decisions listed in this report were: John Arvin, Chair, Keith Arnold, Academician, Mark Lockwood, Secretary, Kelly Bryan, Brush Freeman, Petra Hockey, Terry Maxwell, Willie Sekula, and Barry Zimmer. During 2001, Willie Sekula's second term ended, Mel Cooksey was elected as a new member, Petra Hockey was elected to a second term, and the Academician, Chair, and Secretary were re-elected.

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Paton, **JPe** - Jim Peterson, **JPr** - Jean Preis, **JRa** - Janet Rathjen, **JRo** - James Roche, **JRos** - John Rosford, **JSi** - Joel Simon, **JSt** - Jim Stevenson, **JV** - John Vanderpoel, **JW** - Jack Windsor, **JWS** - J. W. Sifford, **JZa** - James Zabriskie, **JZu** - John Zubia, **KBr** - Kelly Bryan, **KBa** - Keith Bartels, **KE** - Kim Ekert, **KS** - Ken Seyffert, **LA** - Loren Ammerman, **LH** - Linda Hedges, **LoB** - Lorie Black, **LR** - Les Reitsma, **LSm** - Leanna Smith, **LW** - Lefty Ward, **LyB** - Lytle Blankenship, **LyS** - Lynn Smith, **M&ME** - Mark & Maryann Eastman, **MAd** - Mark Adams, **MAu** - Mike Austin, **MCA** - Mary Cantrell, **MCo** - Mel Cooksey, **MEI** - Mark Elwonger, **MF** - Mark Flippo, **MG** - Michael Green, **MH** - Martin Hagne, **MI** - Marshall Iliff, **MK** - Mark Klym, **ML** - Mark Lockwood, **MLa** - Michael Lacy, **MMe** - Margaret Meyers, **MMI** - Mike Mizell, **MO** - Mike Overton, **MR** - Martin Reid, **MRe** - Michael Retter, **MRO** - Marcus Roening, **MRog** - Michael Rogers, **MRy** - Michael Ryan, **MSc** - Marcy Scott, **MSch** - Mark Scheuerman, **MSi** - Mike Sims, **MWh** - Matt White, **MWo** - Mimi Wolf, **N&PA** - Neill & Paula Amsler, **NBa** - Noreen Baker, **NBI** - Nick Block, **NDA** - Noreen Damude, **NDe** - Nancy Devlin, **NMC** - Narca Moore-Craig, **P&TFr** - Phyllis & Tony Frank, **PaH** - Pat Howell, **PBa** - Peter Barnes, **PBe** - Patty Beasley, **PBo** - Pat Bowen, **PC** - Pat Culbertson, **PDH** - P. D. Hulce, **Pha** - Peggy Harding, **PHo** - Petra Hockey, **PK** - Paula Kayton, **PR** - Phil Rostron, **PS** - Paul Sanders, **R&NA** - Rich & Nanette Armstrong, **RBe** - Robert Bensen, **RBi** - Ray Bieber, **RD** - Rich Damron, **RK** - Rich Kostecke, **RMo** - Randy Moore, **RMP** - R. M. Pope, **RO** - Robert Ohmart, **RPe** - Richard Peake, **RPi** - Randy Pinkston, **RR** - Ross Rassmusen, **RTa** - Rick Taylor, **RTw** - Roger Twichen, **RWa** - Ro Wauer, **RiW** - Richard Webster, **RoW** - Ron Weeks, **SB** - Steve Bentsen, **SC** - Scarlet Colley, **SL** - Scott Lerich, **SSa** - Sandy Sandel, **SSo** - Sylvestre Sorola, **SSu** - Scott Summers, **TB** - Tim Brush, **TEt** - Troy Ettel, **TEu** - Ted Eubanks, **TF** - Tim Fennell, **TGa** - Tony Gallucci, **TGi** - Thomas Gill, **TH** - Tom Hince, **TM** - Terry Maxwell, **TPi** - Tom Pincelli, **TPo** - Truman Powell, **TS** - Timothy Steurer, **TW** - Tricia Wright, **VE** - Victor Emanuel, **VK** - Val Kithens, **WB** - William Burch, **WM** - Wayne Meyer, **WRi** - Will Risser, **WRo** - William Rowe, **WRu** - Will Russell, **WS** - Willie Sekula, **ZS** - Zach Smith.

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Additional Abbreviations—AOU = American Ornithologists' Union; CCMS = Corpus Christi Museum of Science; NP = National Park; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; SNA = State Natural Area; SP = State Park; TCWC = Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (Texas A&M University); WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) (44). One near High Island, *Jefferson*, on 19 April 1997 (**MSch**; 2000–124). One at Hagerman NWR, *Grayson*, from 7–8 November 1997 (**G&LS**, **CCo**; 1997–172). One at Lake Benbrook, *Tarrant*, from 17–20 November 1999 (**PHo**, **MR**, **BFr**, **GL**; 1999–98; TPRF 1854). Up to two at E. V. Spence Reservoir, *Coke*, from 10–15 January 2000 (**PHo**, **TM**; 2000–1). One at Lake Texoma, *Grayson*, from 11 January to 22 February 2000 (**WM**, **EW**; 2000–13). One at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth*, from 10–19 November 2000 (**BZ**, **MSc**, **JZ**; 2000–127; TPRF 1897). One at Imperial Reservoir, *Pecos*, from 23 November 2000 to 4 February 2001 (**NBI**, **MI**, **BLy**, **CHa**; 2000–134).

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) (17). One at Lake Tawakoni, *Rains*, on 6 November 1999 (**MWh**; 1999–108). One at Austin, *Travis*, from 18 December 2000 to 14 January 2001 (**NBa**, **GS**, **TF**, **EC**, **RPi**, **ML**, **BFr**, **PHo**, **JHa**, **RMP**, **B&JRi**; 2000–142; TPRF 1859).

Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) (13). One picked up alive, but later died, on North Padre Island, *Nueces*, on 20 June 1989 (**MCo**; 2001–55; TPRF 1898; *CCMS 90-A-0024). Four near an oil rig off North Padre Island, *Kenedy*, on 5 November 1999 (**AW**; 2000–19).

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) (20). One off Freeport, *Brazoria*, on 6 June 1999 (**PHo**; 1999–67).

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) (5). One off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun*, on 21 September 1996 (**DP**, **MEL**, **PHo**, **MO**, **BMc**; 1996–118; TPRF 1947).

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (16). One at South Padre Island, *Cameron*, from 30 June to 16 July 2001 (**SC**, **PHo**; 2001–98; TPRF 1899).



Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaius*) photographed off N. Padre Island. Photo by Alan Wormington.

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) (3). Two in Aransas Bay near San Jose Island, *Aransas*, from 5 April to 6 July 2000 (MCo, JJ, JMu, DSi, JWS, CN, BFr; 2000–49; TPRF 1900). One near Port O'Connor, *Calhoun*, from 15–16 April 2000 (LW; 2000–50; TPRF 1901).

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) (20). A “Black” Brant shot by a hunter near Etter, *Moore*, in December 1999 (KS, BP; 2001–54; TPRF 1902). One at Lake Rita Blanca, *Hartley*, on 28 November 2000 (MAu; 2000–135). One at Lubbock, *Lubbock*, on 4 February 2001 (JHe; 2001–128; TPRF 1871).

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) (3). Two adults on a private ranch in northeastern *Hemphill* from 7–26 December 2000 (BP, EC; 2000–141; TPRF 1946).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (30). One at Imperial Reservoir, *Pecos*, on 6 April 2000 (BFr, PHo; 2000–35). One at Peach Point WMA, *Brazoria*, on 12 December 2000 (CHag, RoW; 2001–121; TPRF 1945).

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) (8). Two specimens of this species were donated to the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection during 2001 by C. D. Stutzenbaker. They were collected at Lake Sheldon, *Harris*, on 30 December 1972 (*TCWC 13,716 and 13,717).

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) (3). One at Rollover Pass, *Galveston*, on 17 April 1998 (WRu; 1998–93).

Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*) (59). One on Galveston Island, *Galveston*, on 24 April 1997 (WB; 1997–120). One at Rockport, *Aransas*, from 21–27 July 2001 (MCo; 2001–115; TPRF 1948).

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) (14). One near Sam Nail Ranch, Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 9 September 1999 (MF; 1999–85).

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) (12). One at Hazel Bazemore Park, Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, on 20 October 1999 (JSi; 1999–119).

Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) (19). One near Galveston, *Galveston*, from 22 March to 26 April 1959 (VE; 2000–125).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (23). One at El Canelo Ranch, *Kenedy*, from 28 December 2000 to 3 January 2001 (MRo, BMc, JBu 2001–08; TPRF 1863).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (15). Two at the Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds, *El Paso*, from 30 August to 2 September 2000 (JZa, MSc, MAd, JPa, BZ; 2000–81; TPRF 1903). One at an oil rig off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun*, on 2 October 2000 (BGi; 2000–86).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) (35). One at White Rock Lake, *Dallas*, from 6–19 February 2000 (JPe; 2000–14). One at Imperial Reservoir, *Pecos*, on 19 November 2000 (MAd, BGi; 2000–130; TPRF 1904). One at Beaumont, *Jefferson*, from 8–20 April 2001 (NBI, B&JRi, GM; 2001–72; TPRF 1905).

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (20). One at Village Creek Wastewater Plant, *Tarrant*, from 30 November 2000 to 8 January 2001 (MR, B&JRi; 2000–144; TPRF 1862).

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) (18). One at San Antonio, *Bexar*, from 22 January to 1 February 2000 (WS, B&JRi; 2000–10; TPRF 1906). One at Fort Worth, *Tarrant*, from 13–16 December 2000 (MR; 2001–25; TPRF 1865). One at Lake Worth, *Tarrant*, from 23–24 January 2001 (MR; 2001–29; TPRF 1866).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (62). One at East Beach, *Galveston*, from 23 December 1997 to 25 February 1998 (DP, JRa, PDH, JD; 1998–29; TPRF 1907). Four at Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds, *El Paso*, on 4 May 1999 (BZ; 1999–70; TPRF 1870).

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (48). One at Rockport, *Aransas*, from 17–20 November 1999 (MI; 1999–112; TPRF 1908). One at Port Aransas, *Nueces*, on 28 January 2000 (JV; 2000–8; TPRF 1857). One at Galveston, *Galveston*, from 17 November to 13 December 2000 (MR, B&JRi, NBI; 2000–139; TPRF 1909). One at Fort Worth, *Tarrant*, from 13–20 December 2000 (MR; 2001–27; TPRF 1910). One at Fort Worth, *Tarrant*, from 22–23 December 2000 (MR; 2001–28; TPRF 1867).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (58). One at Cedar Creek Lake, *Kaufman*, on 22 September 1973 (BV; 2000–62). One at Cooper Lake, *Delta*, on 24 August 1999 (MWh; 1999–91).

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) (7). One on an oil rig off North Padre Island, *Kenedy*, from 27 April to 1 May 2000 (AW; 2000–32; TPRF 1911).

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) (11). One at El Paso, *El Paso*, from 25–28 March 2000 (JPa; 2000–21).

Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*) (8). One at Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, from 3–4 May 2000 (RBe, A&MC, B&SS; 2000–30; TPRF 1912).

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glauclidium brasilianum*). One at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 9 April 1999 (RTa, NMC; 1999–87). Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl is not a *Review Species*, but this unexpected first record for the Trans-Pecos warranted review.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) (28). One found dead in Amarillo, *Potter*, on 30 October 2000 (KS; 2001–57, TPRF 1913; *TCWC 13,624). One found dead in Amarillo, *Potter*, on 4 November 2000 (KS; 2001–58, TPRF 1914; *ASNHC 2091). One at Lubbock, *Lubbock*, on 6 December 2000 (CMi; 2000–143; TPRF 1860). One found dead at Davis Mountains SP, *Jeff Davis*, on 4 January 2001 (KBr; 2001–11; *ASNHC 2090). One at Big Bend Ranch SP, *Presidio*, on 27 January 2001 (BGo; 2001–86; TPRF 1915). One found dead in Amarillo, *Potter*, on 10 February 2001 (KS; 2001–59, TPRF 1916; *TCWC 13,633). One at Lubbock, *Lubbock*, on 14 February 2001 (RK; 2001–49; TPRF 1917).

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) (35). One near Hunt, *Kerr*, on 28 June 1999 (PaH; 1999–68). One at Graford, *Palo Pinto*, from 28–29 June 1999 (J&IM; 1999–84). One at Volente, *Travis*, on 17 July 1999 (BSt; 1999–71). One near Leander, *Travis*, from 25 June–12 July 2000 (TW; 2000–70). One at Cibolo, *Guadalupe*, from 9–10 May 2001 (NBa, KBa; 2001–83; TPRF 1918). One at Volente, *Travis*, from 19 June to 16 July 2001 (JMc, RPi, JRos; 2001–97; TPRF 1919).

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) (46). One at the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis*, from 20–21 April 1999 (M&ME; 1999–94). One near Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis*, from 31 May to 1 June 1999 (LH; 1999–74). One at Panther Junction, Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 10 June 1999 (MF; 1999–69). One along the Window Trail, Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 14 June 1999 (BZ; 1999–77). One at Kickapoo Cavern SP, *Kinney*, on 24 July 1999 (MLa; 1999–83). One at Los Fresnos, *Cameron*, on 29 August 1999 (N&PA; 1999–81). One at Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis*, from 24 April to 6 June 2000 (KBr, MAd, ML; 2000–34). One at Zapata, *Zapata*, on 3 May 2000 (DT; 2000–27). One at the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis*, on 13 July 2000 (BL; 2000–59). One at Alpine, *Brewster*, from 10–24 September 2000 (DO, SSa; 2001–22; TPRF 1861). One at Big Spring, *Howard*, from 5–10 October 2000 (DR; 2001–85; TPRF 1920). One at McAllen, *Hidalgo*, from 3–20 October 2001 (MH, NBa, SB, RBi, JO, BMC; 2001–124; TPRF 1944).

White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*) (10). One at Fredericksburg, *Gillespie*, from 31 July–4 August 2000 (MME; 2000–73; TPRF 1921).

Berylline Hummingbird (*Amazilia beryllina*) (4). One at the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis*, on 3–8 August 1999 (M&ME, CSh; 1999–80; TPRF 1922). One at the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis*, on 25 May, 6 June, and 16 July 2000 (M&ME, MAd; 2000–53; TPRF 1923).

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) (7). One in the Christmas Mountains, *Brewster*; from 1–30 September 2000 (COK; 2000–116; TPRF 1924).

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) (14). One at San Antonio, *Bexar*; from 1 August 1995 to early February 1996 and 26 July 1996 until 27 February 1997 (HW, WAS, GL, ML, RD; 1996–114; TPRF 1949). One at Bellaire, *Harris*, from 25–27 February 2000 (FC, JHi, JO; 2000–15; TPRF 1925). One at Kerrville, *Kerr*; on 7 August 2000 (A&HR; 2000–78; *TCWC 13,751). One near Victoria, *Victoria*, on 18 August 2000 (BO; 2000–110; *TCWC 13,752). One near Victoria, *Victoria*, from 2–5 September 2000 (BO; 2000–111; *TCWC 13,753). One at Ingram, *Kerr*; on 9 August 2001 (A&HR; 2001–109; *TCWC 13,773) The specimens housed at the TCWC consist of tail feathers removed from captured individuals.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) (51). One in the Basin, Big Bend NP, *Brewster*; from 1–2 November 2000 (PBo, AK, JPr; 2000–121). One at the Chaparral WMA, *Dimmitt*, from 7 November to 15 December 2000 (CRu, NDa; 2001–01; TPRF 1926). One at Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis*, from 11 November to 1 December 2000 (KBr; 2001–03; TPRF 1868). One at Clint, *El Paso*, from 15 November 2000 to 21 February 2001 (BZ; 2000–137; TPRF 1869). One 5 miles south of Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis*, from 18 November to 6 December 2000 (DB; 2000–129). One at Elephant Mountain WMA, *Brewster*; on 23 November 2000 (SL; 2000–132). One at Midland, *Midland*, from 23 November 2000 to 9 March 2001 (NBI; 2000–133). One at Fort Stockton, *Pecos*, on 24 November 2000 (ML; 2000–102). One at Choke Canyon, *McMullen*, from 27 November to 17 December 2000 (F&JD, NDe, WS, JAr; 2000–106; TPRF 1950). One at Abilene, *Taylor*, from 16 December 2000 to 31 March 2001 (LoB, BHu, MI; 2001–60; TPRF 1928). Two at Del Rio, *Val Verde*, from 17 December 2000 to 20 January 2001 (SSo, OC; 2001–07; TPRF 1864).

Greater Pewee (*Contopus pertinax*) (8). One at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis*, on 21 May 2000 (MAd, KBr; 2000–69).

Buff-breasted Flycatcher (*Empidonax fulvifrons*) (3). Up to four (two adults and two fledglings) at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis*, from 23 April to 19 August 2000 (KBr, MAd, BFr, ML; 2000–33; TPRF 1929; TBSL 231). Two at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis*, from 8 May to 9 September 2001 (GL, KBr, ML, BFr, PHo; 2001–82; TPRF 1952; TBSL 233).

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) (15). Two at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis*, from 27 June to 4 July 1999 (KBr; 1999–75; TPRF 1930). Two in the Basin, Big Bend NP, *Brewster*; from 29 April to 12 July 2000 (LyS, RiW, EHo, JMul, JG, CE, MF, MAd, BFr, PHo, BL, RWa; 2000–43; TPRF 1931). One at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis*, on 10 June 2000 (KBr; 2000–76; TBSL 231). One at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis*, on 4 July 2001 (KBr; 2001–120; TBSL 229).

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) (10). One at Falcon Dam, *Starr*; on 29 April 2000 (MRog; 2000–31; TPRF 1932).

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaius*) (2). One on an oil rig off North Padre Island, *Kenedy*, from 21–22 October 2000 (AW; 2000–126; TPRF 1933).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) (13). One at the Welder Wildlife Refuge, *San Patricio*, on 18 December 1999 (LyB; 1999–117). One on an oil rig off North Padre Island, *Kenedy*, on 1 November 2000 (AW; 2001–36; TPRF 1934).

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) (27). One near Rockport, *Aransas*, on 10 January 1990 (PBe, MCo; 2001–56; TPRF 1935; *CCMS 90-A-0017). One at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, *Hidalgo*, on 24 April 1999 (AM; 1999–89). One at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron*, on 27 May 1999 (TPi; 1999–90).

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) (27). One at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun*, on 13 May 2000 (BFr; 2000–56). Two at Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron*, from 30 May to 8 September 2000 (MAd, AF; 2000–72). One at Weslaco, *Hidalgo*, from 9 July to 9 September 2000 (AF; 2000–83).

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*) (16). One at Bolivar Peninsula, *Galveston*, on 8 May 1999 (NBI, JMu; 1999–55). One at Galveston, *Galveston*, from 26 June to 3 July 2001 (JSt; 2001–99; TPRF 1936).

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) (19). One at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis*, on 27 August 2000 (DL; 2000–109). One at Smith Point, *Chambers*, on 14 October 2000 (ZS, JSt; 2000–90). One at Pine Springs Campground, Guadalupe Mountains NP, *Culberson*, on 27 October 2000 (MAu; 2000–92). One near Alpine, *Brewster*; on 9 November 2000 (PHo; 2000–97).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) (4). Up to three at Coldwater Creek, approximately 10 miles north of Gruver, *Hansford*, from 5 December 1999 to 4 April 2000 (EC, B&JRI, KS, CSe, GL, P&TFr, MAD, A&MC; 1999–106; TPRF 1855).

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). One in northern *Webb* on 4 November 2000 (JAR; 2000–96). Townsend's Solitaire is not a *Review Species*, but a TBRC member requested that it be reviewed. There are very few documented records of this species from the South Texas Brush Country.

Rufous-backed Robin (*Turdus rufopalliatus*) (10). One in the Lower Canyons, *Brewster*, on 30 October 1999 (LA, MRy; 1999–99). One at Sarita, *Kenedy*, from 31 January to 13 February 2000 (VK, PK, B&JRI, A&MC, TGa, EB, FB, ML, BFr, JMc, CRi, TF, BMc; 2000–5; TPRF 1856). One in El Paso, *El Paso*, on 30 October 2000 (JPa; 2000–120; TPRF 1937).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (19). One at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, on 29 November 1997 (HD; 1997–167).

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) (10). One at Cooper Lake, *Hopkins*, on 26 February 2000 (MWh; 2000–37). One at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant*, on 1 April 2000 (EW; 2000–36).

Olive Warbler (*Peucedramus taeniatus*) (6). One on the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis*, on 6 October 2000 (GL, PHo, BFr; 2000–89). One at Hueco Tanks SP, *El Paso*, from 11–14 October 2000 (AW, BZ, JZ, MSc; 2000–128; TPRF 1938).

Colima Warbler (*Vermivora crissalis*). One at Dog Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains NP, *Culberson*, on 29 May 1999 (AF, JF; 1999–73). Although Colima Warbler is not a *Review Species*, it is virtually unknown outside of its breeding range in the United States and such extralimital records warrant review.

Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*). One near Buffalo Gap, *Taylor*, on 13 May 1998 (TEt; 1998–125). Tropical Parula is not a *Review Species*, but a member of the TBRC requested that this record be circulated. This is the northernmost record of this species in Texas.

Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*). One at Aransas NWR, *Aransas*, on 11 July 1999 (SSu, AT; 1999–86). Golden-cheeked Warbler is not a *Review Species*, but a TBRC member requested that it be reviewed. Migrant Golden-cheeked Warblers are rarely encountered along the coast.

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) (40). One at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, from 24 March to 26 June 2000 (MG, BFr, KE, EG, TGa, EB, JRa, JMc, RBi, TB, MAd, BSt; 2000–23; TPRF 1940).

Red-faced Warbler (*Cardellina rubrifrons*) (19). One at Boot Canyon, Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 14 August 1999 (EC; 1999–82).

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) (3). One on the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis*, from 21–25 June 2000 (MAd, BFr, PHo, CSe, KBr; 2000–54; TPRF 1939; TBLS 231).

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) (12). One at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, on 30 April 1995 (RMo; 1999–101). One at Packery Channel, *Nueces*, from 25–29 April 2001 (A&MC; 2001–90; TPRF 1941).

Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) (19). One at Green Gulch, Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 1 May 2000 (RWa; 2000–41). Two at Dolan Falls Preserve, *Val Verde*, from 25 March–25 June 2000 (BHa, JK, DE; 2001–114; TBLS 232). Two at Dolan Falls Preserve, *Val Verde*, from 2 April–30 July 2001 (KBr; 2001–119; TPRF 1954; TBLS 233).

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*). One at Lake Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine*, on 21 October 2000 (DWo, MWo, JF; 2000–136). Although Brewer's Sparrow is not a *Review Species*, this record represents the easternmost for the state.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) (35). One at Fort Hancock, *Hudspeth*, on 9 December 1999 (BZ; 2000–16). One at the Basin, Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 10 May 2000 (EKw; 2000–60). One at Lubbock, *Lubbock*, on 23 September 2000 (AF; 2000–114). One near Muleshoe, *Bailey*, on 15 October 2000 (AF; 2000–117).

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) (24). One at Levelland, *Hockley*, on 2 May 2000 (LS; 2000–28). One at Pine Springs, Guadalupe Mountains NP, *Culberson*, on 4 November 2000 (PR; 2000–98).

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco (*Junco hyemalis aikenii*) (1). One at El Paso, *El Paso*, on 30 November and 1 December 2000 (BZ; 2000–140; TPRF 1951). The "White-winged" Junco is a subspecies for which the TBRC requests documentation.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) (5). One at Lake Tawakoni, *Rains*, from 26 December 1999 to 15 January 2000 (MWh, PBa, B&JRI; 1999–116; TPRF 1858).



Buff-breasted Flycatcher (*Empidonax fulvifrons*) photographed in Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis Co. Photo by Greg Lasley.

Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parellina*) (24). One at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, *Hidalgo*, from 1–4 December 1999 (PC; 1999–113). One at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, *Hidalgo*, from mid-Feb to 16 March 1999 (WRo; 1999–49). One below Falcon Dam, *Starr*, on 1 April 2000 (BGI; 2000–52).

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) (6). One at Houston, *Harris*, on 3 February 2000 (WRi; 2000–9).

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) (5). One at Guadalupe Mountains NP, *Culberson*, on 24 November 2000 (EC; 2000–104; TPRF 1942).

UNACCEPTED

A number of factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance. It is quite uncommon for a record to not be accepted because the bird was obviously misidentified. More commonly, a record is not accepted because the material submitted was incomplete, insufficient, superficial, or just too vague to properly document the reported occurrence while eliminating *all* other similar species. Also, written documentation or descriptions prepared *entirely from memory* weeks, months, or years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably. It is important that the simple act of not accepting a particular record should by no means indicate that the TBRC or any of its members feel the record did not occur as reported. The non-acceptance of any record simply reflects the opinion of the TBRC that the documentation, as submitted, did not meet the rigorous standards appropriate for adding data to the formal historical record. The TBRC makes every effort to be as fair and objective as possible regarding each record. If the committee is unsure about any particular record, it prefers to err on the conservative side and not accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be resubmitted to the committee if additional substantive material is presented.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). Imperial Reservoir, *Pecos*, on 31 October 1997 (1997–148).

tropicbird species (*Phaethon* sp.). off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun*, on 8 August 1998 (1998–118).

Brant (*Branta bernicla*). Bolivar Flats, *Galveston*, on 6 October 2000 (2000–88).

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). Hagerman NWR, *Grayson*, on 29 November 1999 (1999–111).

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*). Western *Willacy* on 24 April 1999 (1999–88). Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, on 13 March 2000 (2000–22).

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, on 10 October 1999 (1999–118).

Camp Tyler, *Smith*, from 14 November 1997 to 13 February 1998 (1997–159). Near Cheyenne, *Hockley*, on 26 November 2000 (2000–105).

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*). Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, *Hidalgo*, on 19 January & 13 February 2000 (2000–12).

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*). Mitchell Lake, *Bexar*, on 23 September 1998 (1999–103). Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, on 16 March 2000 (2000–67).

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*). Panhandle (no exact location) on unknown date (1999–121; Clum and Cade 1994).

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant*, on 26 April 1998 (1998–50).

Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*). Corpus Christi, *Nueces*, on 16 November 1999 (1999–100).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). Oil rig off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun*, on 25 September 2000 (2000–82).

South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*). Offshore from Port Aransas, *Nueces*, on 27 November 1999 (1999–105).

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*). East Beach, *Galveston*, on 11 March 2000 (2000–20).

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). Brownsville, *Cameron*, on 6 January 2000 (2000–4). Bolivar Flats, *Galveston*, on 21 July 2000 (2000–71).

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*). High Island, *Galveston*, on 21 April 1991 (1998–112).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). East Beach, *Galveston*, on 23 December 1996 (1997–135).

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*). Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, on 31 October 2000 (2000–87).

Cypseloides species. Trinity River NWR, *Liberty*, on 12 November 2000 (2000–99). The documentation provided showed that the swift observed clearly did not belong to the genus *Chaetura*. The difficulty in separating species in *Cypseloides* from those in *Streptoprocne* was the reason this report was not accepted.

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*). Fort Bliss, *El Paso*, on 30 September 2000 (2000–84). Fort Hancock Reservoir, *Hudspeth*, on 29 October 2000 (2000–94). Both of these reports were well documented, but in both cases the birds did not vocalize. The difficulty in eliminating Chimney Swift was the reason these reports were not accepted. The committee thanks the observers for their diligence in documenting these birds despite the fact that these reports were not accepted.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cyananthus latirostris*). College Station, *Brazos*, on 12 September 2000 (2000–80).

White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*). Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 25 July 1999 (1999–78).

Violet-crowned Hummingbird (*Amazilia violiceps*). Mount Locke, *Jeff Davis*, on 29 July 1999 (1999–79).

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*). Houston, *Harris*, from 2 January to 14 February 1999 (1999–122).

Greater Pewee (*Contopus pertinax*). Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 29 April 1999 (1999–64). Lubbock, *Lubbock*, on 30 April 1999 (1999–66). Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, in May 2000 (2000–61).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*). San Antonio, *Bexar*, on 9 September 2000 (2000–108).

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*). Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 24 April 1997 (1997–87).

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*). Guadalupe Mountains NP, *Culberson*, on 17 November 2000 (2000–138).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*). Lake McClellan, *Gray*, on 24 April 2000 (2000–57).

Bachman's Warbler (*Vermivora bachmanii*). Near McKinney, *Collin*, on 4 September 2000 (2000–112).

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*). Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 8 September 2000 (2000–113).

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). High Island, *Galveston*, on 29 August 1998 (1998–120). Near Cherino, *Nacogdoches*, on 20 April 2000 (2000–68).

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*). Choke Canyon SP, *McMullen*, on 28 October 2000 (2000–93).

Fan-tailed Warbler (*Euthlypis lachrymose*). Near Sheffield, *Crockett*, on 6 and 10 April 2000 (2000–122).

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*). Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, on 22 November 1997 (1997–166).

Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*). Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 26 May 2000 (2000–58).

Western Spindalis (*Spindalis zena*). Houston, *Harris*, on 6 October 1991 (2000–45).

Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*). Mission, *Hidalgo*, on 24 September 1999 (1999–102).

Grassland Yellow-Finch (*Sicalis luteola*). Brackettville, *Kinney*, on 5 September 2000 (2000–79).

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). Davis Mountains SP, *Jeff Davis*, 26 November 2000 (2000–123).

Yellow-eyed Junco (*Junco phaeonotus*). Santa Elena Canyon, Big Bend NP, *Brewster*, on 18 April 2000 (2000–39).

Crimson-collared Grosbeak (*Rhodothraupis celaeno*). Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, on 22 November 2000 (2000–101).

- Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parcellina*). Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo*, on 14 November 2000 (2000–100).
 Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*). Quintana, *Brazoria*, on 9 April 2000 (2000–66). Katy, *Harris*, on
 7 May 2000 (2000–44).
 White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Crowley, *Tarrant*, on 19 December 1999 (2000–107).

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AN UNUSUAL FORAGING STRATEGY IN DUCKS (AVES: ANATIDAE)

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ABSTRACT.—Ducks are normally not recognized as predators of fishes. Here we report of a group of ducks from Texas that exploit a common escape behavior by fishes and feed on these fishes.

Dabbling ducks and some other duck species are usually omnivorous and feed mostly on the water surface. Some species graze on land as well. Their diet consists mainly of algae, little pieces of plants, seeds, insect larvae, and crustaceans, which remained between the little teeth and the rough tongue in the bill. They gather floating food with the bill at the water surface by swimming, dabbling continuously or forage by upending. This is a common feeding behavior for dabbling ducks like Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Pekin Ducks and their hybrids. It is also typical for the Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) and for the Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). The Muscovy Duck sometimes feeds on small fishes, reptiles, millipedes and also termites (Johnsgard 1978). Wood Ducks also eat different kinds of nuts. They tip up and gather food from water about as deep as 32 cm, but they only very rarely dive for food (Johnsgard 1975).

In July and August 1999 we performed a field experiment in a fish species, the sailfin molly (*Poecilia latipinna*) near the bank of the Comal River in the Landa Park (New Braunfels, Texas). During the experiments we observed an unusual feeding behavior in ducks of different species and of different ages. These ducks were a male and a female Mallard, a hybrid between the Mallard and the Pekin Duck, a Wood Duck duckling about four weeks old, and a pair of Muscovy Ducks. These individuals were repeatedly observed near our experimental set up between 20 July and 14 August 1999. The ducks were fed daily by park visitors. The Comal River at our field-site is clear and slow flowing with dense vegetation and some plant-free areas. The river was about 60 cm to 150 cm deep near the bank. The most common fish species in this part of the river is the largespring gambusia (*Gambusia geiseri*) a live-bearing fish (Poeciliidae), with a standard body length of up to five cm. Another live-bearer, the sailfin molly is also very common in this area. This population was probably introduced from Louisiana in the 1920's (Brown 1953).

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We observed the ducks chasing and catching largespring gambusia and small sailfin mollies up to a body length of about five cm. *Gambusia* and sailfin mollies often swim near the water surface. A typical escaping behavior for the poeciliids from a predatory fish is to jump out of the water and fall back into the water a short distance away from the starting point. It appeared that the ducks exploited this escape behavior of the fish and learned to catch these fleeing fish. The ducks sometimes actively forced the fish to show this escaping behavior by swimming fast through groups of fish. The fish tried to escape and jumped out of the water. The ducks snapped the fish in the air with the bill and ate them. We could not quantify this behavior, but concluded that the ducks were quite successful with this unusual feeding behavior. All ducks in this group including a Wood Duck duckling showed this fish chasing and fish catching behavior. This behavior was not only present in 1999, but has since been noticed again (I.S. pers. obs.). We have not seen this behavior in ducks in other parts of Landa Park or other places where at least one of the duck species, mosquito fish or sailfin mollies and their enemies which force the fish to jump out of the water were common. Although our observation is anecdotal, we think it is relevant to the understanding of learning new and unusual foraging strategies in ducks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the Parks and Recreation Department of the Landa Park, New Braunfels, Texas, for access to the Park. K. W. is supported by the DFG (Wi 1531/2) and I. S. is supported by DFG (SCHL 344/10–1).

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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*) CHOKES ON A LIVE OAK (*Quercus*) ACORN

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Prey size that is poorly selected can indeed lead to dire consequences for an individual (Krebs et al. 1977.). Consequences of a wrong decision leading to death of the consumer are rarely documented (Wolf and Jones 1989, Holte and Houck 2000), and therefore are of interest in regards to optimal foraging theory. Herein we report a case of a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) choking on a live oak (*Quercus virginianus*) acorn.

On 19 October 2000 we received a salvaged Blue Jay (HMNS-VO 987) that was found dead two weeks prior in an urban park landscape dominated by live oak, in the city of Houston, Texas. When we went to prepare the bird as a study specimen on 25 October 2000, one of the first steps was putting cotton in the gullet to prevent blood from contaminating the feathers during skinning. At this time, we discovered a hulled acorn (12.5 mm²) from a live oak in the throat of the bird, suggesting the bird choked to death. The acorn was lodged in the gullet quite well, difficult to remove even with a pair of needlepoint tweezers.

Jays typically pulverize large, or hard foods such as acorns with their mandible prior to ingestion (Bent 1964, Brooks pers. obs.). This is apparently what the bird was doing, as shown by the pulverized yellow endocarp of acorns in its gizzard. The acorn the bird choked on was cracked, suggesting it was only partially pulverized with the bill prior to ingestion, but not enough to permit complete passage through the gullet.

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Mandibular width is indicative of gape and size of food taken (Wheelright 1985). The width of the bird's mandible was only 14 mm, leaving only 1.5 mm of clearance for the acorn. Moreover, the width of the gullet itself was even narrower. The bird apparently made an inappropriate decision to attempt consumption of an acorn too large to swallow without proper mastication. Part of the poor foraging decision may be related to inexperience due to younger age. Concordant with this hypothesis, the unossified skull windows and reduced ovaries suggested this bird was indeed a subadult.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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STATUS AND RECENT NESTING OF MUSCOVY DUCK (*CAIRINA MOSCHATA*) IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS

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Ranging widely in tropical lowlands from Mexico to Argentina, the Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) is one of Texas' rarest residents. First recorded here in 1984, it now occurs as a wild species in small numbers in Zapata, Starr, and Hidalgo Counties (TOS 1995), and less frequently, in Webb Co. (Woodin et al. 1998). Wild Muscovies probably spread north during the 1970s or early 1980s from eastern Nuevo Leon, Mexico, where Leopold had recorded them along a tributary of the Rio San Juan in July 1945 (Pitelka 1948). The increase in Texas records also closely follows the erection in 1981 of over 3,000 nest boxes in Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Campeche, Veracruz, and Yucatan, Mexico, by Ducks Unlimited Mexico (Cruz-Nieto 1991). Feral and semi-domesticated birds occur fairly commonly in much of the United States, and some occur in the counties mentioned above.

The highest density of Muscovy Ducks in Texas is in the Starr Co. stretch of the Rio Grande, between Falcon Dam and Roma, near the Texas villages of Chapeño, Salineño, and Fronton, and the Mexican villages of Mier and Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas. For example, as many as 22 wild birds were observed in this stretch by M. Bray and T. Brush in the mid-1990s, and J. Rupert observed 28 there on 9 August 1998. On 6 January 2000, G. Waggener and B. Basham recorded 23 birds along the Rio Grande ca. 5 mi. (8 km) east of Roma; the first report of a flock downstream from Roma. S. G. Monk, R. Bieber and T. Brush recorded 6–8 birds in the same area on 11 June 2001, confirming their presence below Roma during the breeding season.

All the birds observed were quite wary and agile in flight, and nearly all lacked the whitish areas on the head and body, which would indicate feral or domestic stock. They usually flushed from trees or riverbanks along remote side-channels of the Rio Grande, although large numbers were sometimes seen along the main river channel.

The first recorded nest of wild Muscovy Ducks in the USA was found in 1994 by H. Burgess (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service files), in a nest-box erected for Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*),

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Fig 1. Muscovy Duck nest in box at La Parida Banco. Photographed on 21 July 1994 by Tim Brush.

1 mile (1.6km) west of Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, southwestern Hidalgo Co. M. Bray and T. Brush examined it on 21 July 1994, at which time it contained 10 unhatched eggs, 1 pipped egg, and three hatchlings (Fig. 1; Woodyard and Bolen 1984). A female defended the nest by hissing and extending her head and neck from the entrance.

On 4 September 1995, M. Bray and T. Brush observed four juveniles along the Mexican shore, about halfway between Chapeño and Salineño. These birds were almost as big as an adult female Muscovy, and they were quite wary, at first remaining motionless, but then flying off quickly when approached. They had dark bills and dark chestnut-brown heads and bodies. The wings had tiny whitish wing-patches (in the secondaries). No nest-boxes were in the area, but the birds may have hatched in a cavity in a riparian tree, or perhaps in an enlarged Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) burrow in the riverbank. Muscovies are known to be flexible in nest-site selection (Eitniew et al. 1998).

Other sightings of ducklings include 20 June 1999, when E. Carpenter saw a female Muscovy and seven ducklings at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, southeastern Hidalgo Co. Although the nest site was not found, it likely was in one of the duck nest-



Fig 2. Adult Muscovy Duck on Rio Grande near Salineño. Photo by Michael Patrikeev.

boxes in the area. On 6 September 1999, near Fronton, J. Rupert, K. Shinn and T. Brush saw five ducklings which were <1/4 grown, two 3/4-grown juveniles, and one full-grown juvenile. These young birds were accompanied by one adult male and four adult females, which did an apparent distraction display in which they splashed the water with their wings and slowly swam down-river, away from the young birds. The larger young birds flew away from us, while the five smallest retreated quietly into riverbank cane (*Phragmites communis*).

The above observations suggest that Muscovy Ducks have established a small breeding population in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. However, during field studies in Starr Co. from April–August 1999–2001, J. Breeden and J. C. Eitnrear observed 2–5 Muscovies on a regular basis (2–3 observations per week). During much of the summer, only males were seen, usually in flight over the Rio Grande, swimming just below the Falcon Dam spillway, or in snag-choked channels below Salineño (Fig. 2). Given the promiscuity of Muscovies, the presence of males for extended periods does not prove that there is an established breeding population in Texas (Stai 1999).

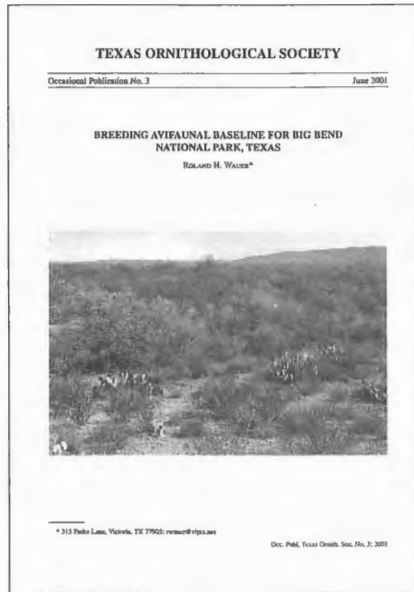
The extent of interbreeding of wild Muscovies with feral or released birds downstream from Starr Co. needs to be determined, since tame birds of unknown origin are often seen in parks in Mission, Brownsville and nearby towns in Hidalgo and Cameron Cos. In addition, nest-sites should be sought in Starr Co. and adjacent Mexico, to better determine the limiting factors for this small population.

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Wauer's current contribution analyses 50 surveys completed on eight study plots representing six communities in Big Bend National Park during April and May 1991-1997. A total of 110 bird species were recorded, 74 of which are considered breeding. The publication should interest birders planning a visit to the area as it not only list birds observed but provides descriptions of the floral communities.

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LIMITED EDITION 50TH ANNIVERSARY PIN AVAILABLE

The Texas Ornithological Society will reach a milestone in 2003 when it celebrates its 50th anniversary. To commemorate this event a stylish limited edition lapel pin is being offered. The pin is not available for purchase but is being provided, free of charge in appreciation of donations of \$10.00 or more to the Bulletin Fund. While they last you can obtain your pin and show your support for the Texas Ornithological Society and the Bulletin by mailing your donation, of \$10.00 or more, to Anniversary Pin, 218 Conway Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78209. Please make checks payable to "TOS".

Information for Contributors

The *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society* is a semiannual journal which publishes original research reports and short communications in the field of ornithology. Articles on a wide range of subjects are accepted, including documentation of new Texas records, interpretations of laboratory and field studies, historical perspectives on Texas ornithology, and developments in theory and methodology. Although the emphasis is on Texas birds, the *Bulletin* accepts papers which advance the knowledge of birds in general.

Manuscripts, including tables, should be typed and double-spaced on one side of 8½ X 11 inch (22 X 28 cm) white paper. Allow 3 cm margins on all sides. Manuscripts may be printed using a high resolution dot-matrix or letter-quality printer. The last name of the first author must be at the top of each page of the manuscript and on the back of every figure. Submitted articles should follow the format observed in this issue of the *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*. Feature articles should include an abstract and a "Literature Cited" section. Short Communications do not need an abstract.

Scientific and common names of North American birds must follow the 1998 A.O.U. Check-list and supplements. The 24-hour clock (0730), the continental dating convention (3 January 1989), and the metric system should be used.

Submit an original and two complete copies of the manuscript. Each manuscript will be subject to editing and will normally be reviewed by at least two persons who are knowledgeable in the subject. The reviewers will provide the editor with advice on the article's acceptability and accuracy. If the article passes review and is correct in form, it will be scheduled for publication. A voluntary page charge of \$35 per printed page will be assessed. **Payment of complete page charges will normally result in earlier publication.** Accepted articles will be published on a "space available" basis if the page charges are not paid. Authors will be sent proofs of their articles prior to the final printing, in addition to instructions on how to order reprints.

Articles, artwork and photographs submitted for inclusion in the *Bulletin* should be sent to the editor: Jack Clinton Eitniear, 218 Conway Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78209.

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