

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER, 2005 - FEBRUARY, 2006

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period December, 2004 - February, 2005. I've compiled observations for species which are listed as **Sporadic, Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?win" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the winter season.

The winter season in Big Bend was generally mild and very dry, with less than an inch of precipitation falling anywhere in the park over the three month period. The last measurable rainfall occurred at the end of January and the dry spell continues at this writing. Cold fronts were few and for the most part did not last more than a few days. A comparison of current precipitation totals through February with the same period last year (+ or -) illustrates the recovery from the early winter dry spell: Panther Junction; 0.56" (-0.95"), Chisos Basin; 0.78" (-0.78"), Rio Grande Village; 0.58" (-0.28"), Castolon; 0.30" (-1.21"), and Persimmon Gap; 0.44" (-1.12").

The annual Christmas Counts (December 28-29) tallied good species totals but far lower individual counts than expected. Food crop conditions were generally poor, and unlike the previous year, sporadically occurring species were low or altogether absent (ash-throated flycatcher, house wren, American robin, sage thrashers, and sage sparrow).

The only review species documented during the period was **Varied Thrush**, with one male reported first on January 17 in the Boot Canyon, and a subsequent observation of two males in the same area on February 2 (photos by Carpenter). The last observation reported was on February 17. The reports here are in line with several other west Texas observations from the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains (Pers. Comm. - Lockwood). Varied thrush was last documented in the park in January 1982.

A female rufous hummingbird found nearly frozen, but still alive, on December 1 during one of the few cold fronts to push through the area was a distressing find. Fortunately the bird was revived and apparently survived to flee the area when warmer temperatures returned the next day. Other winter highlights include white-tailed kite, red-shouldered hawk, short-eared owl, white-eyed vireo, black-throated gray warbler, and a lone male purple finch. Greater yellowlegs and ovenbird reports represent first winter records for the park. Finally, Eurasian collared doves (at least two) were present during the period at Rio Grande Village. Though this exotic has yet to establish a permanent presence in the park, there is a small, but thriving, population just outside the west boundary in Study Butte and Terlingua Springs. Given the presence of a pair at Rio Grande Village, a breeding population in the park is likely only a matter of short time.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER, 2005 - FEBRUARY, 2006

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Lesser scaup	2m,f	01/31	Rio Grande near Nature Trail	John & Joanne Biddick	rare
	5m,f	02/03-4	RGV-boat ramp	Eric Carpenter	rare
Wild turkey	1f	12/07	Rio Grande near Hot Springs	Sherwood Reid	rare
Least bittern	1m	02/12	RGV-Nature Trail	J*J Biddick	acc.
American bittern	1	12/15-2/07	RGV-Nature Trail	Many observers	rare
Black-crowned Night-heron	1	01/24	RGV-Nature Trail	Carl Lundblad	rare
	1	01/29	RGV-Nature Trail	Greg Levandoski	rare
	1	02/03	RGV-Nature Trail	Eric Carpenter	rare
Turkey vulture	1	12/03	Blue Creek	Rob & Angie Dean	rare
	1	12/29	Rio Grande Vill.	CBC	rare
White-tailed kite	1	02/03	Cattail Falls	Patti Westbrook	acc.
Harris' hawk	1	02/15	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rar.
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	02/28	Takeout near SEC	Greg Levandoski	acc
Greater yellowlegs	1	01/26	Hot Springs	Russell Cheney	?win
	1	02/20	RGV-Nature Trail	Bob Severson	?win
Eurasian Collared Dove	1	01/01	RGV Store area	Mike Lesnik	?win
	1	01/23	RGV group site	Mark Flippo	?win
	2	02/3-4	RGV Store area	Eric Carpenter	?win
	1	02/21	RGV-Daniels Rch.	Mark Flippo	?win
Short-eared owl	1	02/12	Cottonwood Camp.	Bob Severson	acc.
Burrowing owl	1	12/19	N. Rosillos Rd	Jim & Barb Hines	rare
Common poorwill	1	01/24	Cottonwood Camp	T&C Jervis	rare
Anna's Hummingbird	1m	12/01-01/09	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Rufous Hummingbird	1f	12/01	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	acc.
Green kingfisher	1m	12/10	RGV-Nature trail	Dan Leavitt	rare
	1m	12/29	CBC-RGV Nature Tr	several observers	rare
	1m	01/24	RGV-nature trail	Daniel Paez	rare
	1m	01/31	RGV-Nature Trail	J&J Biddick	rare
	1m	02/03	RGV-Nature Trail	Eric Carpenter	rare
Gray flycatcher	1-2	01/02-2/28	Cottonwood Camp	many observers	rare
	1	01/12	RGV-Rd to Daniels	Ric & Terry Derdeyn	rare
	1	12/28	CBC-RGV	several observers	rare
	1	01/31	Terlingua Creek	Eric Carpenter	rare
	1	02/19	Rio Grande Vill.	Greg Levandoski	rare
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	01/25	RGV-Gambusia pond	Greg Levandoski	spo.
White-eyed vireo	1	12/10	RGV-Nature Trail	Dan Leavitt	acc.
Gray vireo	1	01/27	Hot Springs	Stan Riome	rare
	1	02/02	Burro Springs	Eric Carpenter	rare
Violet-green Swallow	2	02/09	RGV-Daniels Rch.	Mark Flippo	early?
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	01/24	Boot Canyon	Mark Lockwood	spo.
Carolina wren	1	12/23	Santa Elena Cyn	Dan Leavitt	rare
	2	01/21	Santa Elena Cyn	Dan Paez	rare
	1	01/31	Cottonwood Camp	Eric Carpenter	rare
	2	01/31	Terlingua Creek	Eric Carpenter	rare
	1	02/07	Santa Elena Cyn	??	rare
	1	02/22	Santa Elena Cyn	Mark Flippo	rare
Golden-crowned Kinglet	12	12/18	RGV-Daniels Rch	David Elkowitz	spo.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Varied Thrush*	1m	01/17	Boot Canyon	Dan Leavitt	acc.
	2m	02/1-2	Boot Canyon	Eric Carpenter	acc.
	1m	02/17	Boot Canyon	Bob Severson	acc.
*Texas Review Species: Reports to Lockwood:TBRC Pending Review					
Gray catbird	1	01/01	Sam Nail Ranch	Cathy Bell	rare
	1	01/11	Sam Nail Ranch	Michele Patenande	rare
	1	01/19	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
Sage thrasher	2	12/28	CBC-Chisos	several observers	spo.
	4	12/29	CBC-RGV	several observers	spo.
	6	01/28	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1	02/22	Sam Nail ranch	Mark Flippo	spo.
Black-throated Gray warbler	1	01/08	RGV-Campground	Cynthia Ryan	acc.
	1m	01/28	CBC-Chisos	several observers	acc.
Ovenbird	1	12/30	Window Trail	Jim & Dede Crusinberry	?win
Clay-colored Sparrow	12	12/28	CBC-Chisos	several observers	spo.
	02	12/29	CBC-RGV	several observers	spo.
	1	01/31	Terlingua Abajo	Eric Carpenter	spo.
Field sparrow	1	12/28	CBC-Chisos	Mark Flippo	spo.
	12	12/29	CBC-RGV	Bryan Hale	spo.
Sage sparrow	1	02/03	Surprise Tank	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	1	0212	Tornillo Creek	Greg Levandoski	spo.
Fox sparrow	3	01/23-24	RGV-Campground	Carl Lundblad	spo
	1	01/31	Terlingua Creek	Eric Carpenter	spo
	4	02/19	Rio Grande Vill.	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	2	02/21	RGV-campground	Mark Flippo	spo.
Varied bunting	3m,f	01/31	Terlingua Creek	Eric Carpenter	spo.
Purple finch	1m	12/29	RGV-Rd to Daniels	Ken Stinnet	acc.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 2006

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period March 1 - May 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?spr" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the spring season.

Drought conditions prevailed throughout West Texas during the spring season with very high temperatures beginning in late March. March was extremely dry, with not one recording station receiving more than 0.15 inches. April improved only slightly, with Panther Junction receiving just over an inch. May brought a couple of good days with rain measuring from a quarter to nearly one inch. Precipitation totals year-to-date as compared to the same time period last year (+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 2.17 " (-0.65"), Chisos Basin; 1.91" (-1.06"), Rio Grande Village; 0.70" (-1.55"), Castolon; 0.18" (-2.16"), and Persimmon Gap; 0.68" (-2.14").

The lack of rain during the spring resulted in a late-arriving migration front, but once it started moving, a good variety of species were reported. A fire early in the season in the Chisos Basin (March 9) had little impact on migrants, but two fires in Mexico's Sierra del Carmen range (one in early May, a second about two weeks later) may have created a flurry of late and unexpected species. Indeed, a total of seven review species were reported this spring, six of which could potentially be the fall-out from the combination of fires and drought in the mountains south of our border.

A pair of **ruddy ground-doves** were reported from Boquillas Canyon trail on May 31 (report pending from Seniawski), observed in the giant cane thickets next to the river. A report of a **greater pewee** in the high Chisos in early May was frustrating because no documentation was submitted by an otherwise experienced birder. In late May, a party of four experienced observers reported hearing two calling **dusky-capped flycatchers** in the high Chisos, but was unable to make any audio recordings. A documented report of a **red-faced warbler** on the lower Laguna Meadow Trail in late April was a good find, followed by an unusual report of the same species in the park service residence area at Panther Junction on May 16, right about the time of the second fire in the del Carmens. Perhaps the bird of the season was a beautifully photographed **slate-throated redstart** in Boot Canyon on May 2. As is typical with this species in Big Bend, it appears to have been a one-day wonder, in spite of the efforts of many experienced birders to relocate the bird. Finally, two **Baird's sparrows** were reported in the grassy fields around the Daniels Ranch picnic area at Rio Grande Village in early May, one report including excellent photographs.

The one review species that didn't have southerly connections was a late **varied thrush** photographed in atypical habitat in Cottonwood Campground on March 14. This lone male was likely a lingering individual from the minor invasion of varied thrushes this past winter.

Two species were added to the main park checklist this spring, one on the basis of a fortuitous meeting at Panther Junction in late April. In conversation about (what else) birds, Peter MacGregor revealed that he had photographs of a brown pelican observed in May, 2005 at Hot Springs. The digital images he sent, crystal clear shots of an immature brown pelican, elevate that species from the park's hypothetical list to the main list. The second addition to the list was a species not previously reported in the park.

On March 1, a first winter plumage Bonaparte's gull at Santa Elena Canyon was photo-documented, providing a first park record. The addition of these two species brings the main list to 407, with an additional 43 species still on the hypothetical list (and waiting for confirmation).

Other highlights for the spring: Blue-throated hummingbirds and hepatic tanagers occurring at lower than normal elevation, most likely in response to extremely dry conditions in their normal haunts. A lone least grebe that stayed faithful to the settling pond at Daniels Ranch for a week while the pond was used for irrigation. Colima warblers and painted redstarts were abundant and vocal in Boot Canyon, making for many satisfied birders. Late and unusual observations of hooded and Canada warblers were interesting reports and probably the result of fires on the east slopes of the del Carmens. A lone Couch's kingbird calling at Cottonwood campground in proximity to a calling tropical kingbird was an excellent exercise in ear-birding in late May. Finally, on a somewhat sour note, Eurasian collared doves were observed all over the park, and appear to have established breeding populations at Rio Grande Village. It was only a matter of time....

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 2006

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Snow goose	1	3/26	Rio Grande Vill.	Shane Pruett	rare
	1	4/03	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Gambel's quail	2	3/06	Dugout Wells	Mark Heerd	acc.
	1	5/18	Dagger Flat Rd	Carolyn Hoss	acc.
Wild turkey	1	3/02	North Rosillos	Greg Levandoski	rare
Least grebe	1	4/27	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Gavin Biober	?spr
	1	4/28	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Peg Abbott	?spr
	1	4/30 & 5/3	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Mark Flippo	?spr
	1	5/04	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Jason Leifester Kelly Holligan	?spr.
Brown pelican*	1imm	5/2005	Hot Springs	Peter MacGregor	hyp.
*Hypothetical for park. Photo documentation by MacGregor from May 2005. BRPE moves to main list.					
American bittern	1	3/09	RGV-Nature Trail	Peter Assmann	unc.
	1	3/27	RGV-Nature Trail	Sarah McGregor	unc.
	2	4/16	RGV-Nature Trail	Becky Peterson	unc.
Gray hawk *nesting pair	2*	3/29-5/31	Cottonwood Camp	Many observers	unc.
Common black-hawk	1-2	3/07	Rio Grande Vill.	Nancy Docherty	rare
	1-2	3/07-5/31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
* At same nest area used in 2005 season. Area near nest closed off to prevent unnecessary intrusion.					
Common Black-hawk	1	3/22	Panther Junction	Jody Davila	rare
Harris's hawk	1	3/19	Terlingua Creek	Mark Flippo	rare
Merlin	1	3/01	River Road East	Robert Hamilton	rare
Bonaparte's gull*	1	3/01	Santa Elena Cyn	Mark Flippo	?

***1st documented park record. Photos.**

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Eurasian Collared dove	1	3/03	RGV-Store	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	3/18	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Lockwood	rare
	1	3/31	Rio Grande Vill.	Jeff Sartain	rare
	4	4/05	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	4/09	Persimmon Gap	Doug Duncan	rare
	2	4/12-30	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	4/30	RGV-Campground	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	5/15	Park Rte 12 MP 10	Mark Flippo	rare
Ruddy Ground-dove*	2	5/31	Boquillas Cyn Tr.	Charles Senaiwski	acc
*Texas Review Species: Report pending to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					
Barn owl	1	4/09	Park Rte 12 MP 13	Dan Leavitt	rare
Flammulated owl	1	5/03	Window Trail	R.Dobos,D.Don, C.Edgecomb,T.Crooks	rare
	1	4/19	Boot Canyon	M.J. Wigginton	rare
Burrowing owl	1	3/28	Harte Ranch rd.	Garrett Noyes	rare
	1	4/08	Rte 11, MP15	Dan Leavitt	rare
Long-eared owl	1	4/07	Window Trail	A&H Hunter	rare
	1	5/05	Laguna Meadow Tr.	Kip Millar	rare
Magnificent Hummingbird	1m	5/28	Boot Canyon	Brian Gibbons	rare
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1m	4/28	Panther Junction	Rob & Angie Dean	rare
Green kingfisher	1m	4/11	RGV-Nature Trail	Pete Suffredini	rare
	1m	4/16	RGV-Nature Trail	Orrin Harvey	rare
	1m	4/28	RGV-Nature Trail	Meredith Taylor	rare
Tropical kingbird	1	4/27	RGV-Nature Trail	Jon L Dunn	rare*
*Rare in park outside of Cottonwood campground area, where uncommon.					
Couch's kingbird	1	5/20	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Black-capped Vireo	1m	4/27	Blue Creek Tr.	Jim McCaw	rare
	1m,	4/28	Basin Loop Tr.	Jim McCaw	rare
	1m	4/29	Window Trail	Jim McCaw	rare
	1m	5/01	Basin Road	John Vanderpoel	rare
	3m	5/07	Window Trail	Peg Abbott,Gina Nichol,R.Taylor	rare
	1m	5/17	Basin Road	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	5/17	Green Gulch	Mark Flippo	rare
	4m	5/31	Window Trail	Brian Gibbons	rare
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	4/13	RGV-campground	W&E Harrington	rare
Cassin's vireo	1	5/12	Laguna Meadow Tr.	France Davis	rare
Horned lark	1m	4/01	Dugout Wells	Ray Goad	rare
Mountain bluebird	10	3/20	Laguna Meadow Tr.	Brandon Schmidt	rare
Varied Thrush*	1m	3/14	Cottonwood Camp.	Alec Dobson	?spr.
*Texas Review Species: report and photos to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					
Sprague's pipit	1	3/02	Ernst Tinaja	J.S. Munzinger	acc.
	1	5/02	Panther Junction	Wendell Bradford	acc.
Lucy's warbler	1	3/30	Persimmon Gap	Jim Hines	*
*Rare outside of Cottonwood Campground area, where locally common.					
Tropical parula	1	3/02	Panther Junction	Rob & Angie Dean	acc.
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1m	5/19	Panther Junction	R&A Dean,M.Flippo	rare
Black-throated Gray warbler	1	3/27	RGV-group camp	Chris Merkord	rare
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	4/20	Hot Springs	Dennis Spriggs	rare
Grace's warbler	1	5/07	Colima Trail	Al Mercer	rare
Worm-eating warb.	1	4/20-23	Chisos Basin	Dennis Spriggs	rare

Ovenbird	1	5/15	Boot Canyon	Kit Larsen	rare
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<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
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Hooded warbler	1	4/17	RGV-store	???	rare
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	1m	5/28	Boot Canyon	Greg Cook	rare
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Canada warbler	1m	5/30	Cattail Falls	Brian Gibbons	acc.
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Red-faced warbler*	1	4/30	Laguna Meadow Tr.	John Vanderpoel	acc.
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	1	5/16	Panther Junction	Angie Dean	acc.
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***Texas review species: report to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.**

Painted redstart	1	3/17	Boot Canyon	Greg Levandoski	spo.
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	5	3/30	Boot Canyon	Chad Rittenhouse	spo.
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	6	4/22	Boot Canyon	Earl Horn	spo.
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	2	4/29	Boot Canyon	Mark Flippo	spo.
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	2	5/13	Colima trail	George Grier	spo.
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	2	5/28	Boot Springs	Brian Gibbons	spo.
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	1	5/30	Pine Canyon	Brian Gibbons	spo.
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Slate-throated

Redstart*	1	5/02	Boot Canyon	Jim & Lynne Weber	acc.
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***Texas Review Species: Report and photos to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.**

Baird's sparrow*	1	5/01	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Joe Shoemaker	rare
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	1	5/04	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Jason Leifester Kelly Holligan	rare
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***Texas Review Species: Leifester Report and photos to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.**

Fox sparrow	2	3/06	Rio Grande Vill.	Carolyn Ohl	rare
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Rose-breasted
Grosbeak

	1m	4/29	RGV-group camp.	David Elkowitz	rare
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	1m	4/30	RGV-group camp	Mark Flippo	rare
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	1m	5/16	RGV-store	George Grier	rare
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	1m	5/16	RGV-Daniels Ranch	George Grier	rare
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<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Lazuli bunting	1m	4/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Betsy Kirkpatrick	rare
	1m	4/29	RGV-Daniels Ranch	David Elkowitz	rare
	1m	5/12	Panther Junction	Angie Dean	rare
Common grackle	1m	3/29	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	4/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
Hooded oriole	1m	3/08	RGV-Nature Trail	Laura Southwick	rare
	1m	3/23	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	5/24	Panther Junction	Rob & Angie Dean	rare
Baltimore oriole	1m	5/02	Cottonwood Camp.	J.Leifester, K.Holligan	acc.
	1m	5/02	RGV-Nature Trail	Leifester,Holligan	acc.
	1m	5/07	Cottonwood Camp.	N. Martin	acc.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 2006

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period June 1 - July 31. I've compiled only those observations for species that are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?sum" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the summer season.

Hot and dry are the best terms to describe the Big Bend region's summer season. June and July were both extreme, continuing the trend from the spring season. It wasn't until the evening of July 27th that one storm dropped nearly a third of the year to date total precipitation (Interestingly, I lifted this sentence from last summer's report; same date, almost identical rainfall). Since that event, the summer monsoonal pattern has arrived and the region has received abundant precipitation, boding well for the coming fall. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through July 2005 + or - is as follows: Panther Junction; 3.10" (-4.17"), Chisos Basin; 3.93" (-2.01"), Rio Grande Village; 1.22" (-2.71"), Castolon; 4.24" (-2.39"). Persimmon Gap; 2.21" (-2.17").

Two review species were reported during the period. A **white-eared hummingbird** female was reported along the Colima Trail in late June, and a male **flame-colored tanager** was reported from the Juniper Flat area on July 2. Both reports have been submitted to the Texas Bird Records Committee and are awaiting review.

The common black-hawk pair at Rio Grande Village staged an interesting sleight of hand (wing?) in mid-June. For a period of a week, the pair was observed on the ground below the nest, paying close attention to ...something. In the summer of 2000, similar behavior led to the discovery of a nestling that had fallen out of the nest after a wind storm. That nestling was returned to the nest by park staff, but subsequently disappeared. Suspecting that the same thing had occurred, I conducted a search of the grassy field below the nest, all the while ducking the dives of an irate adult. Unable to find anything, I retreated. A week later, Kym Beckwith found a juvenile black-hawk perched in a mesquite, attended by an adult. The youngster stayed faithful to the mesquite for several days, stretching wings and legs, but never attempting flight. Finally, a week later, Beckwith again found the juvenile, this time back in the nest, and attended by both adults. There have been no further observations of the juvenile, but I assume it has successfully fledged from the nest.

Other highlights include a very out of place neotropic cormorant perched on a power line in Terlingua, a rather mysterious appearance given there were no major weather events at the time, an also out of season long-billed curlew at Hot Springs, and several early migrant warblers (black-throated gray and Louisiana waterthrush) in the Boot Canyon area of the Chisos Mountains.

Finally, Researcher Jeff Troy conducted the annual black-capped vireo survey in the park, locating a total of 23-25 adult birds (17-18 males, 6-7 females), and two hatch-year birds on one nest.

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RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 2006

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Neotropic Cormorant	1	6/24	Terlingua	Kym Beckwith Mark Flippo	?sum
Common black-hawk	1-2	6/1-7/31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	2*	6/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Kym Beckwith	rare
	2*	7/1	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2*	7/7	Rio Grande Vill.	Kym Beckwith	rare
* juvenile with 1 adult.					
Long-billed curlew	1	6/12	Hot Springs	Brady Surber	?sum
White-eared Hummingbird	1f*	6/25	Colima trail	John Mittermeier	acc.
*Texas Review Species: Reports to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					
Calliope Hummingbird	1f	7/29	Pinnacles trail	Sheridan Coffey Martin Reid	rare
Tropical kingbird	2	7/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare*
*Rare in park outside of Cottonwood campground area, where uncommon.					
Black-capped Vireo	4	6/02	Window Trail	Dan Leavitt	rare
	23-25	6/18-22	see notes	Jeff Troy	rare
	1m		Window Trail	Isaac Couger	rare
	1m	7/16	Maple Canyon	Joe Orr	rare
	1	7/24	Maple Canyon	Will Gravlee	rare
Black-throated Gray warbler	2m	7/29	Boot Springs	S.Coffey,M.Reid	?sum
Black & White Warbler	1	7/18	RGV-campground	Jason Heiner	rare
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	7/23	Boot Springs	David Elkowitz Reine Womite	?sum.
Painted redstart	1-4	6/01-7/31	Boot Canyon	many observers	spo.
Flame-colored Tanager*	1m	7/02	Juniper Flat	Tim Ludwick	?sum

***Texas Review Species: Reports to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.**

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2006

Fall Season: General Weather Patterns

The summer monsoonal pattern that entered in late July really gained momentum in the month of August, bringing abundant rain and moderating the high temperatures of early summer. Indeed, fifty percent or more of the year-to-date precipitation indicated below fell in August alone, making for an excellent recovery in what had appeared to be another drought year. The abundant rainfall, coupled with sustained releases from reservoirs along the Rio Conchos in Mexico, brought the Rio Grande up to excellent levels for rafting. Even with reduced rainfall in September, the river remained high through the month and on into October. Several periods of good rain around mid-October kept the river up and the desert green. November was delightful in terms of mild temperatures, but was completely dry for the entire month. It wasn't until the close of November that the first cold front passed through the region, dropping nighttime temperatures into the twenty degree range.

A comparison of current year to date precipitation with year-to-date totals through November 2005 (+ or -) documents the region's recovery from the brink of drought.

<u>Station</u>	<u>YTD Precip</u>	<u>Change from '05</u>	<u>August '06 precip.</u>
Panther Junction	9.97"	-2.35"	5.85"
Chisos Basin	16.05"	+3.30"	8.54"
Rio Grande Village	4.54"	-3.04"	2.31"
Castolon	8.12"	-1.16"	4.77"
Persimmon Gap	7.24"	-1.02"	3.19"

Fall Season: The Birds

August, with all its abundant rainfall, was uncharacteristically slow for birds, but not entirely without some highlights. An interesting report was submitted mid-August for hairy woodpecker, a hypothetically occurring species in the park. The closest area in Texas where this species occurs with any regularity is in the Guadalupe Mountains, but apparently there is a breeding population much closer to home in the Maderas del Carmen mountains just across the border in Mexico.

Another interesting aspect of this past August does not involve a reported species, but rather its absence; the last fall season without a red-faced warbler report was 1998. There was one accepted record from the 2006 spring season, just prior to the June decision of the Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) to remove red-faced warbler from the review species list. I draw no conclusions as to the connection between the species' no-show in August and its delisting by the TBRC...

Three other rare species, whose standing on the review list is firm, were reported during the season; a **greater pewee** at Cottonwood Campground from 9/30 to 10/06, a **black-vented oriole** at the Rio Grande Village nature trail on 10/06, and a **varied thrush** on 11/30 along the Pinnacles Trail. The pewee was well documented with photos (Leavitt) and written details. The last accepted record of this species in Big Bend NP was August, 1991 in the Boot Canyon area. The oriole was a one-day wonder, unlike the last documented record in Big Bend NP, when Ro Wauer reported an adult in Rio Grande Village in September 1968, again from April to September 1969, then again from April to October 1970. The thrush too, was an apparent one-day wonder and echoes the

2005/2006 winter season when at least two males were present in the Boot Canyon area.

Other highlights for the season include several late dates: a male blue-throated hummingbird on the northeast rim on 11/05, a female or immature Rufous/Allen's hummingbird on 11/05, a male black-capped vireo in the high Chisos on 10/29, a male black-throated gray warbler on 11/09 in RGV, and finally a male pine warbler on 11/27, also in RGV.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2006

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Redhead	1m	11/03	RGV-Nature trail	John & Joanne Biddick	rare
Double-crested Cormorant	1	09/22-28	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1imm	11/06-8	RGV-Nature Trail	J&J Biddick	acc.
Common black-hawk	1juv.	08/31	RGV-CBH nest area	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	09/23	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Jim Hines	rare
	1	10/19	Rio Grande Vill.	J&J Biddick	rare
Harris's hawk	1	11/26	Cottonwood Camp.	Bill Howe	rare
Broad-winged hawk	1	10/06	RGV-Campground	Mark Flippo	rare
Barn owl	2	10/18	K-Bar	Missy Powell	rare
Burrowing owl	1	11/05	River Road West	J&J Biddick	rare
Blue-throated Hummingbird	1m	11/05	Northeast Rim	John Zubia	late
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1m	09/06	Panther Junction	Angie & Rob Dean	rare
Anna's Hummingbird	1m	10/12	Panther Junction	A&R Dean	rare
	1f	11/09	RGV-Gambusia Pond	Brian Gibbons Derek Hill	rare
	1f	11/24	SEC River Access	Carl Lundblad	rare
	1f	11/25	RGV-Campground	Carl Lundblad	rare
<i>Selasphorus spp.</i> Hummingbird	1	11/09	RGV-Campground	Gibbons & Hill	late
Greater pewee*	1	09/30	Cottonwood Camp.	David Sankozi	acc.
	1	10/06	Cottonwood Camp.	Daniel Leavitt	acc.

***TX Review Species: Report and photos to TBRC:Lockwood Pending review.**

Great-crested Flycatcher	1	08/31	RGV-Campground	Mark Flippo	acc.
Black-capped Vireo	1m	10/29	Colima Trail	Joanne Biddick	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Western scrub-jay	1	09/29	Laguna Meadow Tr.	David Sankози	rare
Brown creeper	1	11/08	RGV-Daniels ranch	Joanne Biddick	spo.
Carolina wren	2	11/24	SEC Trailhead	Bill Howe	rare
Winter wren	1	11/09	RGV-Campground	Gibbons & Hill	rare
	1	11/10	Terlingua Abajo	Gibbons & Hill	rare
	1	11/11	Terlingua Creek	Mark Flippo	rare
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1f	11/08	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Mark Flippo	spo.
	2m,f	11/20	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Mark Flippo	spo.
	3m,f	11/24	Santa Elena Cyn	Carl Lundblad	spo.
	2m,f	11/25	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Carl Lundblad	spo.
	1	11/26	SEC River Access	Bill Howe	spo.
Varied thrush*	1	11/30	Pinnacles Trail	Corey Hadden	acc.
*TX Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood Pending review.					
Gray catbird	1	10/06	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Sage thrasher	sev.	10/14	Sam Nail Ranch	Sheila Gleason	spo.
	1	10/30	Persimmon Gap	Mark Flippo	spo.
Black-throated Gray warbler	1m	11/09	Rio Grande Vill.	Gibbons & Hill	late
Pine warbler	1m	11/27	RGV-old overflow	Carl Lundblad	rare/late
Painted redstart	1	08/19	Boot Canyon	Daniel Leavitt	spo.
	1	09/29	Colima Tr.	David Sankози	spo.
Sage sparrow	1	11/11	Terlingua Creek	Mark Flippo	spo.
Fox sparrow	1	11/27	Window Trail	Bill Howe	rare
Great-tailed Grackle	2m,f	11/06	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	3f	11/08	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Black-vented Oriole*	1m	10/06	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	acc.
*Texas Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review. Last documented 1970 (Wauer).					
Hooded oriole	1m	09/28	RGV-campground	Mark Flippo	rare
Baltimore oriole	1m	11/09	RGV-Gambusia Pond	Gibbons & Hill	acc.