

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER, 2006 - FEBRUARY, 2007

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period December, 2006 - February, 2007. 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.

Winter Season: General Weather Patterns

This winter season came in three distinct parts; a relatively mild December lacking any major cold fronts until right near the end of the month; an extremely cold and wet late December and early January that had more snow events than have been seen in quite some time in the Big Bend; and a typically dry and windy late January and February.

A comparison of current period (December - February) rainfall with the same time frame in 2006 (+ or -) reveals the exceptional early year precipitation levels. January rainfall is shown as well to document the significant contribution of that month's snow and rain events.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Dec-Feb Precip</u>	<u>Change from '06</u>	<u>January '07 precip.</u>
Panther Junction	3.48"	+2.92"	2.66"
Chisos Basin	3.95"	+3.17"	2.91"
Rio Grande Village	2.89"	+2.31"	2.01"
Castolon	3.63"	+3.33"	2.68"
Persimmon Gap	2.73"	+2.29"	2.07"

With the exceptional precipitation of late December and early January, there were predictions of an early and showy spring wildflower bloom but, as is true with many prognostications, this proved not to be the case. Apparently the prolonged cold temperatures of January retarded seed germination, and it wasn't until warmer temperatures arrived in late February that a modest showing of wildflowers began to make an appearance.

Winter Season: The Birds

For the first time since the winter of 1999-2000, not one review species was documented for the reporting period. There were however, several unusual and unexpected species. A small bevy of three tundra swans graced the river for several days in December, working from the Buenos Aires campsite upstream into Santa Elena Canyon. In the winter months, the most likely to be seen white waterfowl is the occasional snow goose, so the sight of these three giants was an unexpected surprise. A smallish, juvenile plumaged *buteo* observed in early February at perch and walking in flooded fields near Daniels Ranch was an identification challenge for a number of birders. Good photo-documentation by Hines and Biddick clearly showed a red-shouldered hawk, a species more common east of the Pecos River, and occurring here only accidentally. Not quite as rare as the red-shouldered hawk, but seeming more out of place, a short-eared owl surprised several hikers at Trap Springs, a minor watering hole along the Mule Ears trail in the southwest quadrant of the park. A long-billed thrasher reported on December 8th, and a Wilson's warbler reported on the Chisos Circle Christmas Count represented first winter records for these species in the park.

The annual Christmas Counts were disrupted this year by the late December cold front that brought the season's first snowfall. The Chisos Circle count went off as planned on December 28th with sunny skies and mild temperatures, but also accompanied by very high winds. The Rio Grande Village Circle count scheduled for the 29th was postponed for one day due to an overnight incursion of ice, snow, and rain from the mountains all the way down to the river. With the high winds hampering observers and generally poor food crop conditions, the Chisos tally for both species (55) and individuals (592) was extremely low. After the storm passed there were hopes that things would go better on the Rio Grande Village count. The total species count did rebound (75), but again the total individual count (855) was very low. That sporadically occurring winter birds like sage thrasher and golden-crowned kinglet were poorly represented wasn't a surprise, but the near absence of expected species like yellow-rumped warblers on the Chisos count, and the complete absence of chipping and Brewer's sparrows on the Rio Grande Village count were definitely unexpected.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
 RARE BIRD RECORDS
 DECEMBER, 2006 - FEBRUARY, 2007

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Tundra swan	3	12/06	Rio Grande near Buenos Aires	Melford Smith	acc.
	3	12/07	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flipppo	acc.
	3	12/09	Santa Elena Cyn	David Elkowitz	acc.
Wood duck	1f	01/29	RGV-Nature Trail	John Biddick	rare
Common merganser	2m,f	12/09	Santa Elena Cyn	David Elkowitz	rare
American bittern	1	1/04-2/22	RGV-Nature Trail	Many observers	rare
Great egret	1	12/25	RGV Nature Trail	H&M Benham	rare
	1	01/11	RGV Nature Trail	John & Joanne Biddick	
Red-shouldered Hawk	1juv	02/01-02	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Jim Hines J&J Biddick	acc.
Harris's hawk	1	01/18	Cottonwood Camp.	Jim Hines	rare
Golden eagle	1	01/09	Ross Maxwell Dr.	Angie & Rob Dean	rare?
Prairie falcon	1	02/05	Rio Grande near Castolon	Dan Leavitt	rare
Lesser yellowlegs	1	02/22	RGV-Daniels ranch	Mark Flipppo	early
Eurasian Collared-dove	7	12/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Christmas Count	rare
Short-eared Owl	1	02/14-15	Trap Spring	Les Imboden	rare
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1m	01/20-23	RGV campground	J&J Biddick	rare
Anna's Hummingbird	3mf	12/02-02/09	Panther Junction	Mark Flipppo	rare
Rufous hummingbird	1f	12/02-03	Panther Junction	Mark Flipppo	rare
Northern flicker (yellow-shafted)	1f	01/04	RGV campground	Jim Hines	rare
Gray flycatcher	1	12/30	Rio Grand Vill.	Mark Flipppo	rare
	1	01/08	Cottonwood Camp	J&J Biddick	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Ash-throated flycatcher	1	12/28	Chisos Basin	Christmas Count	spo.
	1	12/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Christmas Count	spo.
Gray vireo	1	02/07	Dugout Wells	J&J Biddick	rare
White-eyed vireo	1	01/06	RGV-Campground	Chuck Leavell	rare.
	1	02/15	RGV-Group Camp	Anne Koeppe	early
Violet-green Swallow	1	02/25	Hot Springs	Anne Koeppe	early
Cave swallow	1	12/08	Cottonwood Camp.	John Muldrow	acc.
Brown creeper	1	12/07	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1	02/13	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	spo.
Winter wren	1	12/30	River Road east	Christmas Count	rare
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	12/28	Chisos	Christmas Count	spo.
	3	12/30	RGV-Daniels Rch	Christmas Count	spo.
Sage thrasher	1	12/28	Chisos	Christmas Count	spo.
	1	12/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Christmas Count	spo.
Long-billed Thrasher	1	12/08	Sam Nail Ranch	John Muldrow	?win
Black-throated Gray warbler	1m	12/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Townsend's warbler	1	02/22	Juniper Flat	David Elkowitz	early
Wilson's warbler	1	12/28	Chisos	Christmas Count	?win
Field sparrow	1	12/28	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	spo.
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	12/10	Chisos Basin	John Muldrow	spo.
Fox sparrow	1	02/27	RGV-Campground	Nancy Baker	early

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 2007

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.

Spring Season: General Weather Patterns

The West Texas spring season was extraordinarily wet and cool, the month of May approaching the record for one of the coolest and wettest in the past 30 years. In contrast to last year's typical drought-ridden spring, this season's precipitation maintained the park in a blanket of green and, by late March, decorated with a good profusion of wildflowers. The bloom of Giant dagger yuccas was exceptional, and ocotillos maintained flowers long past their normal period, providing hummingbirds with a ready source of food.

A comparison of current period (March - May) rainfall with the same time frame in 2006 (+ or -) shows the dramatic increase in precipitation for this season. Note in particular the strong recovery at Castolon.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Mar-May Precip</u>	<u>Change from '06</u>
Panther Junction	6.06"	+3.89"
Chisos Basin	7.53"	+5.62"
Rio Grande Village	4.55"	+3.85"
Castolon	6.53"	+6.35"
Persimmon Gap	4.27"	+3.59"

As in most years with a wet spring season, the migration through the Big Bend was fast and without the diversity of observations normally registered in a drier year. This season however, strong storms and cold fronts stacked up migrants for a day or two at a time, creating minor fallouts of birds. For example, on the morning of April 13th, the Panther Junction headquarters was host to a large number of Audubon's, MacGillivray's and Wilson's warblers grounded by a storm the previous evening. Hummingbirds in general were hard to pinpoint because of the aforementioned profusion of ocotillo blooms. By late April the ocotillos had faded and Blue Creek canyon became the most reliable area to find the much-sought Lucifer hummingbird, feeding on tree tobacco and desert willow growing in the drainage.

Spring Season: The Birds

Unlike the preceding winter season when no review species were reported, this spring season saw a total of three records. G. King reported a lone **ruddy ground-dove** at the La Clocha primitive campsite on March 6. On the morning of April 25th, J. Barnes observed a single **slate-throated redstart** in Boot Canyon. In spite of his timely reporting of the observation, several experienced bird guides were unable to relocate the bird the same day. Follow-up trips to the Canyon also failed to find this specialty bird. Interestingly, Barnes' report was in the same location and exactly a week ahead of the Spring '06 record by Jim and Lynne Weber, and the Spring '03 record by Isley, et al.. Finally, on April 24, M. Korducki observed a calling *Myiarchus* flycatcher in Boot Canyon, the diagnostic notes identifying **dusky-capped flycatcher**. He also saw a second, non-calling accompanying bird, assuming it to be paired to the first. Three weeks later, M. Lockwood observed and photographed two calling dusky-caps at the Boot Canyon 3 campsite. Two days later, R. Gutberlet and P. Barnes found a single flycatcher in the same location. No direct

evidence of nesting was reported. Reports have been submitted for all three species to the Texas Bird Records Committee and are pending review.

Two other observations stand out for the season, both representing documentation of species previously listed as "hypothetical" for the park.

On March 28, John and Char Ester observed and photographed a small falcon perched on an ocotillo along side the road to Rio Grande Village. Their excellent images documented a banded **Aplomado falcon**. From band numbers, the individual was identified as a female released during the July, 2004 Aplomado falcon recovery project, 11 miles east of Marathon, Texas. This is the first observation of this individual since her release three years ago. In spite of searches by other observers over the ensuing two weeks, the female was not relocated. The observation raises a bit of a paradox as far as the park checklist is concerned: Because this falcon was banded and the West Texas Aplomado population is still in recovery status (a Code 6 species in ABA terminology) it cannot be counted as a wild bird. Prior to this documented report, there were 13 park records ranging from 1980 to 2000, only two of which contain enough detail to be considered *possible*; 6/24/92 and 7/6/90. Based on these two reports, Aplomado falcon is listed as hypothetical for the summer. I may move Aplomado to the main list with an asterisk, denoting its status as a recovering species. Based on the success of the recovery project east of Marathon and around Valentine, we expect to see more of these grassland falcons wandering into the park in the coming years. Hopefully soon the population will be self-sustaining and wild-raised birds will again fly in West Texas.

On April 11, B Carlson and M. Ruthruff observed and documented a *Chaetura* swift above the Boot Canyon drainage. The single swift was in association with white-throated swifts and, based on their knowledge of both Vaux's and chimney, they were able to identify the latter species. Chimney swift is a breeding species in the Del Rio area and has been documented nesting in Alpine. The species is currently listed as hypothetical for the spring.

Other highlights for the spring: Three female common goldeneyes at the Santa Elena canyon put-in in late March were a surprise find for the early spring. The common black-hawk pair returned to their favorite cottonwood grove at Rio Grande Village and is on nest at this writing. Likewise, a pair of gray hawks returned to their nesting site at Cottonwood campground, though abandoned the first nest after a violent storm damaged the tree in which they nested. The pair has apparently set up shop again in another nearby cottonwood. A second pair of gray hawks has also started a nest at the Daniels Ranch picnic area of Rio Grande Village. A single whimbrel found just downstream of Rio Grande Village was unusual for the spring. A pair of Couch's kingbirds has been present at Cottonwood campground since mid-April, and also appear to be nesting. If so this would be the first documented nesting of this species in the park. With the arrival of expected tropical kingbirds in early May, the challenge of identifying the two similar species is an excellent exercise in ear-birding. Researcher Jeff Troy performed the annual black-capped vireo survey in early May, locating 25-27 adult birds park-wide. A male purple martin at Rio Grande Village was another good report. Though the warbler migration was a bit "slim", several interesting species made appearances; golden-winged and prothonotary warblers being excellent finds. Finally, Colima warblers and painted redstarts were abundant and vocal in Boot Canyon, making for many satisfied birders.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 2007

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Common goldeneye	3f	3/24	Lajitas	Mark Flippo	?spr
Tri-colored heron	1	5/07	RGV-river access	Mark Stevenson	rare
Gray hawk *nesting pair	2*	3/21-5/31	Cottonwood Camp	Many observers	unc.
	1	3/19	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Richard Redmond	unc.
	2*	4/26	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Jon L. Dunn	unc.
	2*	5/13-31	RGV-Daniels Ranch	many observers	unc
*nesting pair					
Common black-hawk	1	3/09	RGV COBH nest area	Laura Southwick	rare
	2	3/15	RGV COBH nest area	Jim Hines	rare
	1-2	3/15-5/31	RGV COBH nest area	many observers	rare
* At same nest area used in 2006 season. Area near nest closed off to prevent unnecessary intrusion.					
Common Black-hawk	1	3/23	Santa Elena Cyn	Dan Leavitt	rare
Harris's hawk	1	3/14	Terlingua Ranch	Jim & Barb Hines	rare
Broad-winged hawk	1	4/29	RGV-campground	Mark Flippo	rare
Merlin	1	3/22	Cottonwood Camp.	Chris Runk	rare
Aplomado falcon*	1f	3/28	Park Rte 12 MP6-7	John & Char Ester	hyp
*Banded female: released 11 miles east of Marathon, Texas 7/01/2004. Photos.					
Virginia rail	1	5/02	RGV-Nature Trail	Peg Abbott	rare
Whimbrel	1	3/26	downstream of RGV	Chris Runk	acc.
Ruddy Ground-dove*	1	3/06	La Clocha camp.	Gordie King	acc
*Texas Review Species: Report pending to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					
Barn owl	1	4/18	Willow Tank	Jane Rogers	rare
Burrowing owl	1	3/18	Park route 11, 9 Point Draw	Richard Redmond	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Chimney swift	1	4/11	Boot Rock view	MaryAnn Ruthruff Barbara Carlson	hyp.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1m	3/09	Panther Junction	Rob & Angie Dean	rare
Dusky-capped Flycatcher*	2	4/24	Boot Canyon	Mark Korducki	rare
	2	5/16	Boot Cyn 3 camp	Mark Lockwood	rare
	1	5/18	Boot Cyn 3 camp	Ron Gutberlet Peter Barnes	rare
*Texas Review Species: Report/photos to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					
Eastern kingbird	1	4/29	RGV-group camp	Mark Flippo	rare
Tropical/Couch's Kingbird	1	4/09	Cottonwood Camp	Albert Frolich	
Couch's kingbird	2	4/25-5/02	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	5/8	Cottonwood Camp.	Jan & Will Risser	rare
Black-capped Vireo	1m	3/25	lower Window Tr	Chris Runk	rare
	1m	5/18	Basin Rd MP 5-6	Mark Flippo	rare
Cassin's vireo	1	4/25	Boot Canyon	Jon L. Dunn	rare
	2	4/30	Laguna Meadow Tr	Jeff Nichols	rare
Purple Martin	1m	4/07	Rio Grande Vill.	Robert Baez	acc.
Carolina Wren	1	3/23	Cottonwood Camp.	Jora Rehm-Lorber	rare
Winter wren	1	3/07	Gravel Pit camp	Gordie King	rare
Golden-winged Warbler	1m	5/13	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Josh Ferry	acc.
Black-throated Green warbler	2m	5/03	Laguna Meadow Tr.	Mel Cooksey	rare
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	4/09	Cottonwood Camp.	Albert Frolich	rare
	1m	4/26	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Jon l. Dunn	rare
Prothonotory warb.	1	5/13	SEC trailhead	Steve Parrish Megan Parrish	acc.

Worm-eating warb.	1	4/24	Boot Canyon	Robert Bond	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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Painted redstart	1	4/06	Boot Springs	Dennis Palafox	spo.
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	1	4/06-5/31	Boot Canyon	many observers	spo.
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**Slate-throated
Redstart***

	1	4/25	Boot Canyon	Joe Barnes	acc.
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***Texas Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood.**

Fox sparrow	1	3/08	Rio Grande Vill.	John Bregar	rare
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Hooded oriole	1m	3/21	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
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	1m	3/25	SE Canyon road	Pam Griffin	rare
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	1m	4/18	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
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	1m	5/02	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
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BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 2007

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.

The rainfall pattern established in May continued into the summer season with heavy storms and frequent flooding in the low-lying areas of the park. The increased cloud cover and abundant rainfall helped moderate temperatures throughout the season, and of course the landscape has responded with a luxuriant growth of blooms and greenery.

<u>Station</u>	<u>2007 YTD Precip</u>	<u>Change from '06</u>	<u>June/July Precip</u>
Panther Junction	11.77"	+ 8.67"	5.71"
Chisos Basin	15.26"	+11.33"	7.73"
Rio Grande Village	10.10"	+ 8.88"	5.55"
Castolon	11.39"	+ 7.15"	4.86"
Persimmon Gap	9.30"	+ 7.09"	5.03"

Two review species were reported during the period. Two individual **white-eared hummingbird** females were observed in the high Chisos by Lyon & Emanuel in mid-July, echoing last year's single record in late June (Mittermeier 6/25/06). A **dusky-capped flycatcher** was reported in Boot Canyon on 6/01, continuing a string of observations in the same area from late April. Early reports were of a pair near the Boot canyon campsites, and nesting was presumed though not confirmed. By mid-June however Barber found one adult dusky-capped flycatcher just below the Pinnacles pass, but no evidence of nesting was reported. Lyon and Emanuel found a pair even lower in the Pinnacles campsites on July 13, and a presumed second pair later the same day above in the Pinnacles Pass. Again, no nesting behavior was noted.

A common black-hawk pair at Rio Grande Village successfully fledged a juvenile by late July, repeating last year's production. The two pairs of gray hawks (Cottonwood campground and Daniels Ranch) remained faithful to their respective nest sites but, to date, no fledglings have been observed. Perhaps the most noteworthy event of this summer was the confirmed nesting of a pair of Couch's kingbirds at Cottonwood Campground. Present there since mid-April, the pair definitely built and defended a nest in the south end of the campground, all the while surrounded by western and tropical kingbirds. Whether young were fledged has not been determined to date. To my knowledge, this is the first confirmed nesting of this species in the park.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 2006

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Gray hawk	2*	6/01-7/31	Cottonwood Camp	Many observers	unc.
	2*	6/01-7/31	RGV-Daniels Ranch	many observers	unc
*nesting pair					
Common black-hawk	1-2	6/1-7/31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	2*	7/20	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
* juvenile with 1 adult.					
Prairie falcon	1	7/11	Old Maverick Road	Jim Paton	rare
Barn Owl	1	7/03	Park Rte 11,MP 10	Rey Muniz	?sum
Flammuated owl	2	6/22	Boot Canyon	John Thomlinson	rare
White-eared Hummingbird*					
	1f	7/13	Emory Peak Tr jnct	Barry Lyon Victor Emanuel	acc.
	1f	7/13	Boot Canyon	Barry Lyon Victor Emanuel	acc.
*Texas Review Species: Reports to TBRC:Lockwood.					
Couch's kingbird	2*	7/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Barry Lyon Victor Emanuel	rare
*Nesting pair: 1 st			documented nesting in BBNP		
Dusky-capped Flycatcher*					
	1	6/01	Boot Canyon Camp	Kirk Roth	rare
	1	6/14	Pinnacles Pass	Lynn Barber	rare
	2	7/13	Pinnacles Camp	Lyon/Emanuel	rare
	2	7/13	Pinnacles Pass	Lyon/Emanuel	rare
*Texas Review Species: Reports to TBRC:Lockwood.					
Black-capped Vireo	1f	7/24	Window Trail	Madeline Averett	rare
Carolina wren	2	7/11	Santa Elena Cyn.	Jim Paton	rare
Painted redstart	1-2	6/01-7/31	Boot Canyon	many observers	spo.
Chestnut collared Longspur	1	6/08	Lost Mine Trail	Kenn Sutton	late

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2007

Following is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period August 1 - November 30. I've compiled only those observations for species that are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Sporadic, Hypothetical** or **Not included (?)** on the park's checklist. A "**?fall**" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the fall season.

Fall Season: General Weather Patterns

The summer monsoonal pattern continued into August and September, bringing abundant rain and moderating the high temperatures of early summer. Rainfall tapered off by the second week of October and the area was dry for more than a month until the season's first cold front arrived just after Thanksgiving. All of November's recorded precipitation fell on Saturday the 24th, most of which was snow above 3500'. The quick moving front brought extreme low temperatures and the snow closed the road into the Basin well into the evening, inconveniencing park visitors who got caught on either side of the pass.

A comparison of current year to date precipitation with year-to-date totals through November 2006 (+ or -) documents the exceptional rain year the region has experienced.

<u>Station</u>	<u>YTD Precip</u>	<u>Change from '06</u>	<u>Aug-Nov'07 precip.</u>
Panther Junction	15.11"	+5.14"	3.70"
Chisos Basin	23.65"	+7.60"	8.47"
Rio Grande Vill.	12.54"	+7.65"	2.19"
Castolon	15.76"	+7.64"	4.40"
Persimmon Gap	13.50"	+6.26"	4.13"

Fall Season: The Birds

Without a doubt this was one of the more memorable early fall seasons for birds in the past several years with the appearance of two review species and a new state record.

On the afternoon of August 13, Eric Carpenter and Maggie Burnett made an incredible discovery in Pine Canyon: a **fan-tailed warbler** lurking near the cool moist alcove below the pour-off at the end of the trail. Known previously in the United States only from a handful of reports in southeastern Arizona, the Pine Canyon bird rapidly became the target for birders from across the nation.

The warbler was remarkably cooperative over the ensuing six weeks as hundreds of people drove the rough seven mile road and hiked the rugged 4 mile trail to successfully observe this tropical species. The bird was fully documented with detailed reports, photographs and video, leading the TBRC to accept the record on November 28, 2007, bringing the official state list to 632 species in good standing.

In the search for the fan-tailed warbler, birders made another incredible discovery in Pine Canyon with first one, then a second, **northern pygmy-owl**. The owls were not as cooperative as the warbler, being heard by many, observed by fewer, but did remain in the canyon for more than a month. Based on the double call notes and from plumage details revealed in photographs, at least one of the pygmy-owls, if not both, was determined to be of the Mexican subspecies - Mountain pygmy owl (*Glaucidium gnoma gnoma*). While not yet acted upon by the TBRC, there is little doubt that this record will also be accepted.

Almost lost in the frenzy over the warbler and owls was a reported female white-eared hummingbird in Boot Canyon on August 8. This review species has become increasingly frequent over the past several years in the Davis Mountains, but is still a very special and rare find here in the Chisos.

Other highlights for the season include a surprising female red-breasted merganser found dead on the road to Rio Grande Village on October 31, a Louisiana waterthrush in Boot Canyon August 26, and a lone red-faced warbler down in Pine Canyon on August 24.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2007

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Red-breasted Merganser*	1f	10/31	Park Rte 12 MP 13	Howard Smith	acc.
*Found dead on road					
Merlin	1	10/20	Mesa de Anguila	Mark Flippo	rare
Eastern Screech-owl	1	08/13	Cottonwood Camp.	Eric Carpenter Maggie Burnett	rare
N. Pygmy Owl*	1-2	8/17-9/29	Pine Canyon	Many observers	?fall
*Texas Review Species: Reports & photos to TBRC:Lockwood Pending review.					
Short-eared owl	1	10/22	N. Rosillos Road	Jim & Barb Hines	rare
Broad-billed Hummingbird	1imm	08/26	Chisos Basin	Thomas Riecke Buck Buchanan	acc.
White-eared Hummingbird*	1f	08/08	Boot Canyon	Laura Packer	acc.
*Texas Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood Pending review.					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1m	08/26-28	Chisos Basin	many observers	rare
Hammond's Flycatcher	1	08/09	Boot Springs	Forest Rowland	rare
Black-capped Vireo	2m&f	08/05	Laguna Meadow Tr.	Jan Wilson	rare
	2m	08/25	Window Trail	Mike Austin	rare
Gray vireo	2	11/06-31	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	late
Gray catbird	1	11/08	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
Black-throated Green warbler	1	09/09	Pinnacles Pass	William Martinus	rare
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	08/26	Boot Springs	Thomas Riecke Buck Buchanan	acc.
Red-faced warbler	1	08/24	Pine Canyon	Laura & Jay Packer Ron Weeks	acc.
Painted redstart	2	08/08	Boot Canyon	Laura Packer	spo.
	1	08/09	Boot Springs	Forest Rowland	spo.
	2	09/02	Pinnacles/Boot Cyn	S&A Williams	spo.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Fan-tailed Warbler*	1	8/13-9/23	Pine Canyon	Eric Carpenter Maggie Burnett Many observers	?

*Texas Review Species: 1st Texas record. Accepted by TBRC 11/28/07.

Common grackle	1m	11/20	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
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