

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER - FEBRUARY 1997-98

March 2, 1998

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period December 1 - February 28. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "**?-win**" indicates a species on the checklist but not for the winter season.

This was a warmer and drier winter than last year. Precipitation totals for the three month period as compared to the same period last year (+/-): Panther Junction: 0.68"(-0.68"). Chisos Basin: 1.22" (-1.60"). Rio Grande Village: 0.81" (-0.55"). Castolon: 0.38" (-0.88"). Persimmon Gap: 0.47" (-0.41"). Most of the precipitation occurred in December in the form of snow or sleet. January was extremely dry, and February was punctuated with cold, wet storm fronts between periods of very warm and dry weather.

The excellent diversity of winter sparrow and finch populations observed last winter did not occur this year. Expected wintering sparrows like chipping, clay-colored and Brewer's were very sparse this year, and there were no reports of Cassin's and purple finches, nor red crossbills. Likewise pine siskins were conspicuously low in numbers. The most unusual observation for the period was that of a **dunlin** on 12/29 by Ken Stinnet during the annual Rio Grande Village Christmas Count. This species is not currently on the park list.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER - FEBRUARY 1997-98

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Eared grebe	1	01/02	Rio Grande Vill.	Gary Luce	rare
	1	01/06	Tornillo Creek Bridge	Jim Unruh	
Great Egret	1	12/31	Rio Grande Vill.	B&F Heyman	? win
Snow goose	25	2/19	Black Gap Road	Jean Sankey	acc.
Wood duck	1	2/4	Basin oxid. pond	Brad Storey	rare
	1	2/11	Rio Grande Vill.	Joseph Allie	
Redhead	1	2/13	Santa Elena Cyn.	Joseph Allie	rare
Hooded merganser	1	2/10	Rio Grande Vill.	Doug Roy	acc.
Ruddy duck	1	2/12	Harte Ranch	Barry Gelsinger	rare
Dunlin	1	12/29	Hot Springs	Ken Stinnet	?
Short-eared owl	1	12/28	Green Gulch	Ken Stinnet	rare
Burrowing owl	1	12/28-29	MP 17 Rte 12	Gordon Berkey	? win
Green kingfisher	2	12/1-31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many obs.	acc.
	2	1/1-31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many obs.	acc.
Dusky flycatcher	1	12/28	Basin oxid. pond	J.Gee,C.Edwards	spo.
Gray flycatcher	1	2/3	Basin oxid. pond	Brad Storey	rare
Cassin's kingbird	1	12/31	Rio Grande Vill.	Bernie Heyman	acc.
Brown creeper	1	12/28	Laguna Mdws.	J.Gee,C.Edwards	spo.
Carolina wren	1	12/27	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	2/15	" " "	Mark Flippo	rare
Sage thrasher	?	12/28	Lost Mine Trail	Ken Stinnet	spo.
White-eyed vireo	1	01/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	acc.
Gray vireo	1	01/04	Closed Canyon Big Bend Ranch SP	Linda Walsh	rare
Black-throated gray warbler	1	01/12	Sam Nail Ranch	G.& S. Cook	acc.
Wilson's warbler	1	12/22	Terlingua Creek	Gordon Berkey	? win.
<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>

Blue grosbeak	1	2/15	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	acc.
Field sparrow	1	2/21	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Fox sparrow	1	12/27	Mp 17 Rte 12	Gordon Berkey	spo.
	1	2/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Sharon Bennett	spo.
Song sparrow	2	12/20-24	Rio Grande Vill.	Gordon Berkey	rare
	1	2/11	" " "	Joseph Allie	rare
	1	2/15	" " "	Mark Flippo	rare
Red-winged blackbird	20	12/28	MP 17 Rte 12	Gordon Berkey	? win.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 1998

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.

Like most of Texas, the Big Bend region has experienced an extremely dry spring season, in strong contrast to last year's abnormally wet spring. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through May 1997 (+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 0.95" (-5.91"), Chisos Basin; 0.57" (-7.03"), Rio Grande Village; 0.58" (-4.62"), Castolon; 0.07" (-4.24"), and Persimmon Gap; 0.08" (-4.92"). The last measurable precipitation at Panther Junction occurred March 5.

The impact of the extreme drought conditions on this year's migration through the Big Bend has been significant. As in the drought of spring 1996, neotropical migrants pushed into the region and concentrated anywhere there was cover and available water. The extreme drought has also had an impact on resident and summer breeding species, particularly those found at higher elevations. With very little water in the high Chisos, wildlife is moving down to lower elevations; Sierra Del Carmen White-tailed deer down to Panther Junction, mountain lion becoming more visible and active in the Basin and Panther Junction, and a Colima warbler on a water pipe at Dugout Wells on May 16. Other Colima warbler reports have come from lower than expected elevations along the lower Laguna Meadow trail and elsewhere in the Chisos Basin.

The first wave of migrants began the Easter weekend (April 12) with expected species like Yellow-rumped and Wilson's warblers and chipping, clay-colored and Brewer's sparrows. Another wave around April 20 brought large numbers of Nashville warblers and vesper, lark and savannah sparrows. Yet another wave beginning the final days of April and through the first week of May brought unusual species like **Upland sandpiper, hooded warblers**, and a flurry of **Baird's sparrows**. By May 15, when normally the migration would be winding down, reports of accidentally occurring species like **chestnut-sided, Magnolia** and **Blackburnian warblers** began coming in, foreshadowing a totally unexpected wave of neotropicals that continued through the end of the month.

2

This late wave, including unusually high numbers of eastern vagrant species, particularly warblers, coincided directly with heavy smoke from wildfires in Texas and Mexico that blanketed the skies beginning around mid-May. Although it may be too early to make such a statement, the fires and resulting smoke apparently had a major impact on migratory paths for neotropical migrants, particularly those species traveling up through Central America and Mexico. Significantly, many of these late arriving migrants are still lingering here at Big Bend, concentrated at springs, seeps, wells, campgrounds and backyards.

Beyond the tremendous showing of eastern vagrants, the story of the spring (perhaps the year???) is a probable **Piratic Flycatcher** videotaped at Rio Grande Village store on April 4. Still photos from the videotape may be viewed on the TBRC homepage (<http://members.tripod.com>) for those who want to see the evidence. Kudos go out to Mark Adams for encouraging the British

birders (twitchers?) who found the bird to submit documentation to TBRC, to Greg Lasley for sleuthing out the mis-identified sulphur-bellied flycatcher, and obviously to Mr. Burton and Mr. Conkle for finding the bird in the first place and documenting it so well. If accepted by TBRC the sighting will represent the first Texas record and only the third U.S. record.

Other highlights for the spring include a nesting common black-hawk at Rio Grande Village and nesting **Tropical kingbirds** at Cottonwood campground. This is the third year in a row that black-hawks have returned to the same tree at Rio Grande Village. In the previous two years the hawks abandoned the nest due to human intrusions underneath the nest tree. This year park staff cordoned off an area around the tree after it was determined that a hawk was still on the nest. So far the hawk is still there and we will continue to monitor the nest for any sign of fledging young. Tropical kingbirds were first documented at Cottonwood campground in June, 1996 by Barry Lyon and there were unconfirmed reports in 1997 at the same location. This year at least one pair has been observed carrying nesting material to a cottonwood tree on the south end of the campground. A report has been submitted to TBRC documenting this year's nesting. At the time of this writing a late mailing from Terry Morgan and Karen Walz indicates an audio tape of the calling birds is available for documentation. I will contact them today (6/3).

The annual Black-capped vireo survey was also conducted in May. Preliminary data show 31 vireos and seven nests, a slight decrease from the 1997 survey. Disturbingly, six of the nests were empty and initial thought is that the extreme drought conditions are inhibiting the vireos from egg-laying. As in the previous four years, there was no evidence of brown-headed cowbird parasitism.

Peregrine falcons were monitored through the season, and will continued to be watched until fledging is completed. Initially there were 11 known active pair in and near the park, one less than last year, but several of those nestings have apparently already failed. To date three sets of nestlings have been located.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 1998

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Least grebe	1	4/10	Sanderson Cyn. (Lower Cyns)	Marcos Paredes	acc.
Little blue heron	1	4/08	Lower Cyns	Marcos Paredes	acc.
White-faced ibis	7	3/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Charles Wilson	rare
	8	3/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Donald Riley	rare
	11	3/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	3/30	Cottonwood Camp.	Jim Bogue	rare
	25	4/01	Cottonwood Camp.	Jim Bogue	rare
	12	4/01	Cottonwood Camp.	Donald White	rare
	1	4/27	Rio Grande Vill.	D&V Nichols	rare
	1	5/24	Boquillas Cyn.	Don Burt	rare
Ruddy duck	1f	3/19	Harte Ranch	Michael Engel	rare
Sharp-shinned hawk	1im	3/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	3/26	Cottonwood Camp.	Michael Engel	rare
	1	4/14	Cottonwood Camp.	Tom Peal	rare
	1im	4/14	Pine Canyon	Mark Flippo	rare
Common black-hawk	1	3/07	Rio Grande Vill.	Sharon Bennett	rare
	1	3/10	Rio Grande Vill.	Patrick Cabe	rare
	1*	3/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
*carrying nesting material					
	1	3/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Mike & Barb Whitt	rare
	1	3/26	Rio Grande Vill.	Paul&Rod Vorndam	rare
	1	3/27	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	4/20	Rio Grande Vill.	Jeff Sparks	rare
	1	4/21	Rio Grande Vill.	C.Fialkowski	rare
	1	4/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>

Common black-hawk	1	4/26	Rio Grande Vill.	David Womer	rare
	1*	4/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Jon L. Dunn	rare
	1*	5/09	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	5/24	Cottonwood Camp.	Terry Morgan Karen Walz	rare

* on nest. Area near nest closed off to prevent unnecessary intrusion.

Virginia rail	1	4/29	Rio Grande Vill.	B.Magee,J.Gorton	rare
Black-necked stilt	2	3/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	5/03	Santa Elena Cyn.	Sandy Profeta	rare
Upland sandpiper	1	5/08	Rio Grande Vill.	Greg Lasley	rare
	1	5/09	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Baird's sandpiper	4	5/04	Hot Springs	Ro Wauer	rare
	2	5/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Franklin's gull	1	5/19	Boquillas Cyn	Thomas Chornock	rare
Ring-billed gull	1	4/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	acc.
Least Tern	1	5/24	Cottonwood Camp.	T.Morgan,K.Walz	acc.
Black-billed cuckoo	1	5/20	Rio Grande Vill.	Donald White	acc.
	1	5/20	Chisos Basin	Thomas Chornock	acc.
Groove-billed ani	1	4/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Joel Gorton	rare
Flammulated owl	1	5/09	Boot Spring	Garett Hodne	rare
	2	5/14	Boot Spring	P.Bing,P.Miller	rare
Burrowing owl	1**	3/04	Chisos Basin	Mark Flippo	rare

** Found dead in Chisos Basin campground. Unusual location. Usually seen at lower elevations.

Broad-billed hum.	1*	4/07	Lower Cyns.	Marcos Paredes	acc.
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*Review species; report sent to TBRC:Lasley. Unconfirmed

Ruby-throated hummingbird	1m	4/19	Dugout Wells	Rich Hoyer	rare
	1m	4/27-29	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Green kingfisher	1f	5/13	Boquillas Cyn	Ro Wauer	rare
Greater Pewee	1*	3/05	Blue Creek Trail	Michael Engel	acc.
*Review species; report sent to TBRC:Lasley. Unconfirmed (rejected 3/99)					
Eastern Wood-pewee	1*	5/24	Cottonwood Camp.	T.Morgan,K.Walz	???
	1*	5/27-28	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	???
* Not on park list (oversight?) All observers report song as confirmation.					
Eastern phoebe	1	5/09	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	?spr.
Great-crested flycatcher	1	5/02	Cottonwood Camp.	Jan & Will Risser	acc.
Brown-crested flycatcher	1	5/10	Sam Nail Ranch	Ken&Joan Bowen	rare
	1	5/17	Rte 15 MP 18	Mark Flippo	rare
Couch's kingbird	1	5/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Couch's/Tropical kingbird	1*	5/02	Cottonwood Camp.	J&W Risser	?
Tropical kingbird	1*	5/8-9	Cottonwood Camp.	Tom Johnson	?
	1*	5/12	Rio Grande Vill.	Joan Bowen	?
	3-4**	5/24	Cottonwood Camp.	T.Morgan,K.Walz	?
	2**	5/31	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	?
* Tropical kingbird 1st documented 6/96 by Barry Lyon at Cottonwood. Status in park still uncertain. Undocumented reports from 1997 at same location.					
** Birds observed carrying nesting material. Report to TBRC:Lasley (Accepted 4/99)					
Eastern kingbird	1	5/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	5/21	Basin Oxid. pond	T.Morgan,K.Walz	rare
	2	5/22	Dugout Wells	T.Morgan,K.Walz	rare
	1	5/22	Rio Grande Vill.	T.Morgan,K.Walz	rare
	2	5/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Val Naylor	rare
<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Yellow-throated vireo	1m	5/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Donald White	acc.
Red-eyed vireo	1	5/04	Cottonwood Camp.	Bob&Lou Collier	rare
	1	5/25	Window Trail	T.Morgan,K.Walz	rare
Golden-winged warbler	1f	4/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Rich Hoyer	acc.
Tennessee warb.	1m	4/06	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1m	5/09	Oak Spring	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1m	5/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Don Burt	acc.
	1?	5/25	Window Trail	T.Morgan,K.Walz	acc.
Chestnut-sided warbler	1f	5/05	Cottonwood Camp.	Mike Engel	acc.
	1f	5/16	Santa Elena Cyn.	Karen Kluge Terry Rosenmeier	acc.
	1m	5/20	Rio Grande Vill.	Thomas Chornock	acc.
	1m	5/22	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1m	5/24	Sam Nail Ranch	B&S Bourbon	acc.
	1m	5/24	Sam Nail Ranch	T.Morgan,K.Walz	acc.
	1m	5/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Don Burt	acc.
	1f	5/25	Sam Nail Ranch	Val Naylor	acc.
	1f	5/26-28	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1f	5/31	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	acc.
Magnolia warbler	1	5/06	Chisos Basin	Robert D.	acc.
	1m	5/09	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1m	5/21	Dugout Wells	Dodge Engleman	acc.
	1m	5/20-28	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1m	5/25	Window Trail	T.Morgan,K.Walz	acc.
	1m	5/27	Cottonwood camp.	Donald White	acc.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Black-throated gray warbler	1m	4/22	Chisoso Basin	Ray Thompson	rare
	1m	4/23	Sam Nail Ranch	Suzi Plooster	rare
	1m	5/07	Sam Nail Ranch	Rose Ann Jordan	rare
Black-throated green warbler	1f	5/19	Rio Grande Vill.	Thomas Chornock	rare
	1f	5/20	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	5/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Don Burt	rare
	1f	5/22	Sam Nail Ranch	T.Morgan,K.Walz	rare
	1f	5/24	Green Gulch MP3-4	T.Morgan,K.Walz	rare
	1f	5/24	Sam Nail Ranch	T.Morgan,K.Walz	rare
	1f	5/25	Window Trail	T.Morgan,K.Walz	rare
Blackburnian warbler	1m	5/15	Daniels Ranch	Kluge/Rosenmeier	acc.
	1m	5/17	Sam Nail ranch	Mary Ann Ruthruff	acc.
	1f	5/19	Boot Spring	Steven Olson	acc.
	1m	5/20	Daniels Ranch	Thomas Chornock	acc.
	1f	5/21	Sam Nail Ranch	Dodge Engelman	acc.
	1m	5/21	Daniels Ranch	Don Burt	acc.
	1m	5/22	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	acc.
	2m,f	5/22,24	Sam Nail Ranch	T.Morgan,K.Walz	acc.
	1m	5/22	Panther Junction	Val Naylor	acc.
	2m,f	5/24	Sam Nail Ranch	B&S Bourbon	acc.
	2m,f	5/25	Sam Nail ranch	Val Naylor	acc.
	1f	5/25	Cottonwood Camp.	B&S Bourbon	acc.
	2m	5/25	Window Trail	T.Morgan,K.Walz	acc.
Grace's warbler	1m	5/20	Daniels ranch	Thomas Chornock	rare
Prairie warbler	1f	5/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Dodge Engelman	acc.
Palm warbler	1m	5/10	Rio Grande Vill.	Garett Hodne	acc.
Bay-breasted warbler	1f	5/22	Sam Nail Ranch	Dodge Engelman	acc.
	1f	5/23	Sam Nail Ranch	Carol Wells	acc.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Blackpoll warb.	1m	5/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Don Burt	acc.
Worm-eating warb.	1	4/20	Dugout Wells	Mike Bumgardner	rare
	1	4/20	Dugout Wells	Ray Smith	rare
	1	4/21	Dugout Wells	Rich Hoyer	rare
	1	4/28	Upper Oak Creek	Ro Wauer	rare
	1	5/10	Terlingua Abaja	Sarah Boubon	rare
Ovenbird	1	4/22	Sam Nail ranch	Rich Hoyer	rare
	1	4/30	Rio Grade Vill.	C.Ohl,D.Ohl	rare
	1	5/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Donald White	rare
	1	5/09	Dugout Wells	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	5/13	Sam Nail Ranch	P.Bing,P.Miller	rare
	1	5/14	Sam Nail Ranch	Ken Hartman	rare
	1	5/16	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Kentucky warbler	1m	4/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mike Bumgardner	acc.
Mourning warbler	1m**	4/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mike Bumgardner	hyp.
	1m**	5/24	Sam Nail Ranch	B&S Bourbon	hyp.
	1m**	5/24	Sam Nail Ranch	T.Morgan,K.Walz	hyp.
	1m**	5/26	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	hyp.
** Hypothetical on park list: These reports unconfirmed (no photos).					
Hooded warbler	1m	3/26-27	Cottonwood Camp.	Michael Engel	rare
	1f	4/21	Colima Trail	Rich Hoyer	rare
	1m	4/23	Sam Nail Ranch	Rich Hoyer	rare
	1m	4/25	Sam Nail Ranch	Tina Jones	rare
	1m	4/27	Sam Nail Ranch	E.Rees,J.Morsello	rare
	1m	4/28	Sam Nail Ranch	Jon L. Dunn	rare
	1if	4/29	Boot Spring	Jon L. Dunn	rare
	1m	4/29	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Canada warbler	1m	5/22	Panther Junction	Val Naylor	acc.
	1m	5/22	Chisos Basin	Don Burt	acc.
	1f	5/28	Window Trail	Jim Crusinberry	acc.
	1m	5/31	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1m	5/31	Cottonwood camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
Painted redstart	1	4/29	Blue Creek Cyn	Jon L. Dunn	spo.
	1	4/30	Basin oxid. ponds	Eric Horvath	spo.
Rufous-capped Warbler	1*	5/01	Hot Springs		
* Review species: Accepted by TBRC					
Scarlet tanager	1m	3/31	Rio Grande Vill.	Mary Bolson	rare
Rose-breasted grosbeak	1m	4/27	Cattail Falls	E.Rees,J.Mosello	rare
	1m	4/29	Cottonwood Camp.	Mike Engel	rare
	1m	5/1-2	Cottonwood Camp.	J&W Risser	rare
	2	5/03	Cottonwood Camp.	Sandy Profeta	rare
	1m	5/09	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Lazuli bunting	1m	4/22	Rio Grande Vill.	Rich Hoyer	rare
	1m	4/27	Rio Grande Vill.	J&W Risser	rare
	1m	4/27	Hannold Draw	Ro Wauer	rare
	1m	5/02	Hot Springs	Jon Dunn	rare
	1m	5/07	Daniels Ranch	Ed & Zee Lebeau	rare
	1m	5/14	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2m	5/19	Rio Grande Vill.	John Stewman	rare
Field sparrow	1	3/20-23	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	4/05	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	4/06	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	4/12	Dugout Wells	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	4/22	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Baird's sparrow Not accepted by TBRC	1*	4/30	Upper Tornillo	Ro Wauer	rare
	1*	4/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Carolyn Ohl Dale Ohl	rare
	1*	5/05	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Baird's sparrow	1*	5/07	Daniels Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
	3**	5/08	Rio Grande Vill.	Greg Lasley	rare
	1*	5/09	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1*	5/16	Rte 12, MP 4	Mark Flippo	rare
	1*	5/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare

*Review species; reports sent to TBRC:Lasley. **Photographs All accepted

Common grackle	1m	4/16	Dugout Wells	Tom Peal	rare
	1m	4/17-30	Cottonwood Camp.	Mike Engel	rare
	10mf	4/17	Cottonwood Camp	Tom Peal	rare
Hooded oriole	2	4/05	Boquillas Cyn.	D.T. Rogers	rare
	1im	4/06	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	4/10	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	4/29	Cottonwood Camp.	Mike Engel	rare

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE-JULY, 1998

August 13, 1998

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 which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Sporadic, 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.

June started out hot and dry, continuing the trend from spring, but rain began falling around the 11th and continued falling through July. July rainfall was heaviest in the Chisos Basin and Panther Junction, with 3" and 4.8" respectively. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through July 1997(+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 6.71" (-6.76"), Chisos Basin; 6.02" (-6.02"), Rio Grande Village; 1.20" (-7.57"), Castolon; 2.56" (-4.08"), and Persimmon Gap; 2.09" (-7.14").

The big story for this summer was the continued presence early on of the vagant species that invaded the area in the spring season. With the rains beginning on June 11th most of the vagant species flushed out and things settled down to the normal line-up of birds.

Aside from the vagant show, the most significant event of the summer breeding season was the impact of the earlier drought on nesting species. It appears that many species just didn't nest this year. The annual Black-capped vireo survey (conducted in May) revealed 31 vireos and seven nests, a slight decrease from the 1997 survey. Six of the nests were empty and initial thought is that the extreme drought conditions are inhibiting the vireos from egg-laying. As in the previous four years, there was no evidence of brown-headed cowbird parasitism. Peregrine falcons were monitored through the season and results show 11 known active pair in and near the park, one less than last year, but several of those nestings have apparently already failed. Officially, only three fledglings were produced this year, with another two suspected in the Santa Elena Canyon area. This represents a significant drop from last year's record of 17 fledglings. Colima warblers apparently also had a poor reproductive year with very few reports of nests or fledglings. At this writing, it appears that Colimas have pretty much departed the mountains - Lasley was up August 15 and could not locate one Colima. Other observers found at most one or two individuals.

The common black-hawks nesting at Rio Grande Village also had an unsuccessful season. My last observation of the pair was June 23. At that time there was no activity in the nest although the pair was observed to copulate. Subsequent checks of the nest revealed no presence of the hawks or any fledglings. Hopefully they will return next year and try again.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE-JULY, 1998

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Black-crowned night-heron	1	6/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	acc.
White-faced ibis	1	6/03	La Cloch	Brian Hudgens	rare late
Common Black-Hawk	1	6/06	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	6/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Gary Clark	rare
	2	6/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Swainson's hawk	1	6/06	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	7/30	Castolon	Stan Arnold	rare
Prairie falcon	1	6/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
Purple gallinule	1	6/06	Rio Grande Vill.	Sharon Terry	? sum.
Common Ground-Dove	1	6/03	Rio Grande Vill.	Chris Merkord	rare
Black-billed cuckoo	1	6/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Ken Hackman Joe Hopkins	acc.
Groove-billed ani	3	7/27	Rio Grande Vill.	Victor Emanuel Barry Zimmer	rare
Calliope hummingbird	1m	7/25	Boot Cyn. Trail	Greg Lasley	rare
Willow flycatcher	1	6/06	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare late
Tropical kingbird	3-4*	5/24	Cottonwood Camp.	T.Morgan,K.Walz	? acc.
	2*	5/31	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	? acc.
	2*	6/06	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	? acc.
	1*	6/20	Cottonwood Camp.	Gary Clark	? acc.
	4*	6/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	? acc.
	4*	7/26	Cottonwood Camp.	Greg Lasley	? acc.

* Review Species; Report sent to TBRC:Lasley on 5/31. 1 pair on nest.
(Accepted - 4/99) Possible second nesting pair at north end of campground.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
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Eastern kingbird	1	6/04	Cottonwood Camp.	Donald White	rare late
Scissor-tailed flycatcher	1im	6/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	? sum.
White-eyed vireo	1	6/14	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare late
Black-capped vireo	1m	6/20	Window Trail	Paul Sunby	rare
	1m	7/29	Window Trail	Mark Faherty	rare
Warbling vireo	1	6/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	spo.
Red-eyed Vireo	1	6/02	Laguna Mdw Trail	Ken Hackman	rare late
	1	6/03	Rio Grande Vill.	Chris Merkord	rare late
	1	6/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Ken Hackman	rare late
	1	6/06	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare late
Yellow-green vireo	1*	6/07	Dugout Wells	Mark Flippo	acc.

*** Review Species; Report sent to TBRC:Lasley. (Accepted 4/13/99)**

Carolina wren	1	7/05	Rio Grande Vill.	Brian Gibbons Hira Walker	rare
Swainson's thrush	1	6/04	Boot Canyon	Chris Merkord	late
	1	6/05	Chisos Basin	Philip Faurot	late
Wood thrush	1	7/05	Rio Grande Vill.	Brian Gibbons Hira Walker	acc. late
American pipit	1	6/11	Chisos Basin	Laura Karr	late
Phainopepla	2m,f	6/21	Chisos Basin	Gary Clark	rare
Northern parula	1f	6/14	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
Magnolia warbler	1m	6/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Joe Hopkins	acc. late
	1m	6/04	Sam Nail Ranch	Donald White	acc. late
Townsend's warb.	1m	6/27	Boot Canyon	Kevin Rolle	late

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Blackburnian warbler	1f	6/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Ken Hackman	acc. late
	1f	6/06	Panther Junction	Sarah Bourbon	acc. late
Yellow-throated warbler	1	6/04	La Clocha	Brian Hudgens	rare late
Black & white warbler	1	7/30	Sam Nail Ranch	Stan Arnold	rare
Mourning warbler	1m**	6/04	Sam Nail Ranch	Donald White	hyp.
	1m**	6/06	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	hyp.
	1m**	6/07	Sam Nail Ranch	Philip Faurot	hyp.
** Hypothetical on park list: These reports unconfirmed (no photos).					
MacGillivray's warbler	1m	6/06	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	late
	1m	6/07	Dugout Wells	Mark Flippo	late
Wilson's warbler	1m	6/06	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	late
	1m	6/06	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	late
Canada warbler	1m	6/06	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	acc. late
	1m	6/06	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc. late
	1m	6/07	Sam Nail Ranch	Philip Faurot	acc. late
Western tanager	1m	6/05	Chisos Basin	Chris Merkord	rare
Green-tailed towhee	1	6/06	Sam Nail ranch	Mark Flippo	late
	1	6/07	Dugout Wells	Mark Flippo	late
Chipping sparrow	1	6/06	Sam Nail ranch	Mark Flippo	late
	6	6/06	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	late
	4	6/08	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	late
Vesper sparrow	5	6/06	Cottonwood camp.	Mark Flippo	late

Lincoln's sparrow	1	6/05	Panther Junction	Chris Merkord	late
<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Rose-breasted grosbeak	1f	6/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Ken Hackman	rare
Great-tailed grackle	1m	7/03	Chisos Basin	Brian Gibbons Hira Walker	rare
Pine siskin	1	6/05	Chisos Basin	Chris Merkord	rare

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST-OCTOBER, 1998

December 03, 1998

Attached 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 which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Sporadic, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist.

The month of August started out with ample rainfall, continuing the normal late summer rainy season, but by mid-month the rains ceased and the area remained dry through September. October and November brought unusual good rains with very mild weather, except for a brief cold snap during the first week of November. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through November 1997(+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 13.02"(-4.10"), Chisos Basin; 15.23" (-1.89"), Rio Grande Village; 5.70" (-5.00"), Castolon; 7.73"(+0.69"), and Persimmon Gap; 5.88" (-5.84").

The fall migration period was quiet, with very little migrant warbler or sparrow activity. A **common loon** (10/30) and a **little blue heron** (9/02) on the Lower Canyons section of the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River provided two very unusual observations for the period. Until recently, common loon was listed as hypothetical on the park checklist, but research revealed a specimen collected in the early 1930s, so at this point it is considered an accidentally occurring species along the Rio Grande in winter. An immature tri-colored heron was present in the Rio Grande Village/Hot Springs area for a month, and a pair of green kingfishers along the Rio Grande Village nature trail generated many observations from September through November. A pair of **Tropical kingbirds** that nested at Cottonwood Campground this summer was observed with a fledgling on 8/29 (M.Flipppo) and 9/13 (R.Wauer), providing documentation for a first probable successful nesting record. A pair of Carolina wrens was reported during the season at Rio Grande Village, continuing a string of reports since December, 1997 for the same area. The series of reports confirm for the first time the presence of this species in the park for the entire year. While American robins and hermit thrushes were numerous in the park beginning in early November, bluebirds and Townsend's solitaires were conspicuously absent. Sage thrashers also didn't make a showing this year, save for two that came in for water at a park residence during the dry spell in September. At least two Gray catbirds were present during the period; interesting observations in that the park checklist doesn't show this species as occurring in the fall season. Unusual warbler and sparrow reports included a **black-throated blue warbler** at Sam Nail Ranch on 9/24, a **Grace's warbler** in Pine canyon on 10/11, and a **Baird's sparrow** at Panther Junction for two days (9/25-26).

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST-OCTOBER, 1998

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Common loon	1	10/30	Lower Canyons	Darren	?acc.
Little blue heron	1	9/02	Lower Canyons	Marcos Paredes	acc.
Tri-colored heron	1imm	9/05	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flipppo	rare
	1imm	9/07&12	Rio Grande Vill.	Dale Ohl	rare
	1im	9/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Philip Beckhelm	rare
	1im	9/27	Hot Springs	Mark Flipppo	rare
	1im	10/04	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flipppo	rare
White-faced ibis	1	9/15	Rio Grande Vill.	Allen Cutterback	rare
Swainson's hawk	1	8/29	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flipppo	rare
Bald eagle	1	11/07	Hwy 385	Bill Granger	rare
Merlin	1m	10/14	Rio Grande Vill.	Larry Carpenter	rare
	1f	11/04	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flipppo	rare
Groove-billed ani	1	9/07	Rio Grande Vill.	Dale Ohl	rare
Common nighthawk	1	11/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Bernie Heyman	rare
Ruby-throated hummingbird	1m	8/5-8	Panther Junction	Mark Flipppo	rare
	1m	8/16-22	Panther Junction	Mark Flipppo	rare
Anna's hummingbird	1imm	10/16-29	Panther Junction	Mark Flipppo	rare
	1imm	11/01-30	Panther Junction	Mark Flipppo	rare
Calliope hummingbird	1m	8/5-8	Panther Junction	Mark Flipppo	rare
	2f	9/05	Laguna Mdw. Tr.	J&W Risser	rare
Green kingfisher	2m,f	9/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Ro Wauer	rare
	2m,f	9/05-26	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flipppo	rare
	2m,f	10/01-31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many obs.	rare
	2m,f	11/01-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many obs.	rare
Brown-crested flycatcher	1	9/02	Lower Burro Mesa	Ro Wauer	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Tropical kingbird	2*	8/07	Cottonwood Camp.	Don Carrell	? acc.
	3*	8/29	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	? acc.
	2*	9/02	Cottonwood Camp.	Ro Wauer	?
	2*	9/04	Cottonwood Camp.	J&W Risser	?
	1*	9/07	Cottonwood Camp.	Dale Ohl	?
	3*	9/13	Cottonwood Camp.	Ro Wauer	?

* Review Species; Report sent to TBRC:Lasley on 5/31. 1 pair on nest.
Possible second nesting pair at north end of campground.
8/29 and 9/13 observations: 2 adults and one juvenile.

Eastern kingbird	1	9/02	Cottonwood Camp.	Ro Wauer	rare
Black-capped vireo	2m	8/13	Laguna Mdw. Tr	Troy Ettel	rare
	1m	9/06	Blue Creek Tr.	J&W Risser	rare
Tree swallow	3	11/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	4	11/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Carolina wren	1	8/02	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	10/02	Rio Grande Vill.	Dale Ohl	rare
	2	11/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Gray catbird	1	10/04	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	10/09	Sam Nail Ranch	Rachel Alvarado	rare
	1	11/01	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	11/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Theresa Bayond	rare
Sage thrasher	2	9/14	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	spo.
Virginia's warb.	1	10/02	Rio Grande Vill.	Carolyn Ohl-Kolb	rare
	1	10/04	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Colima warbler	1	10/03	Southwest Rim	??	late
Black-throated blue warbler	1m	9/24	Sam Nail Ranch	F. Carter	acc.

Grace's warbler 1 10/11 Pine Canyon Linda&Dave Hedges rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Baird's sparrow	1*	9/25-26	Panther Junction	Richard Palmer	rare
* Review Species;Report pending for TBRC:Lasley.Unconfirmed.(Reject 7/25/99-1 st circulation)					
Grasshopper spar.	1	10/04	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Lazuli bunting	1m	9/12	Chisos Basin	C&D Ohl	late

Mr. John Sproul
601 W. Yandell Dr. #25
El Paso, TX 79902

December 03, 1998

Hello John,

Attached 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 which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Sporadic, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist.

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Grace's warbler in Pine canyon on 10/11, and a **Baird's sparrow** at Panther Junction for two days (9/25-26).

That's all for now. If you need further information please feel to contact me: (915) 477-1110(work) (915) 477-2210 (home).

Mark Flippo