

Texas Partners In Flight Flyway



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2000 – Spring 2001

Volume 8

Newsletter Editor – Clifford E. Shackelford <clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us>

Partners in Flight was formed to address the conservation needs of declining bird species. Federal and state government agencies, non-governmental conservation organizations, communities and conservation-minded corporations, landowners, and other businesses, have joined together in an international effort to address these declines. Together, we are working to understand the ecology and natural history of all birds in the Western Hemisphere, while also discovering the causes of their vulnerability. Our main goal is to implement actions needed to assure that these valuable species continue to occur in healthy and productive populations into the future.

Bird Checklists in Texas: Reference Material Providing Important Information

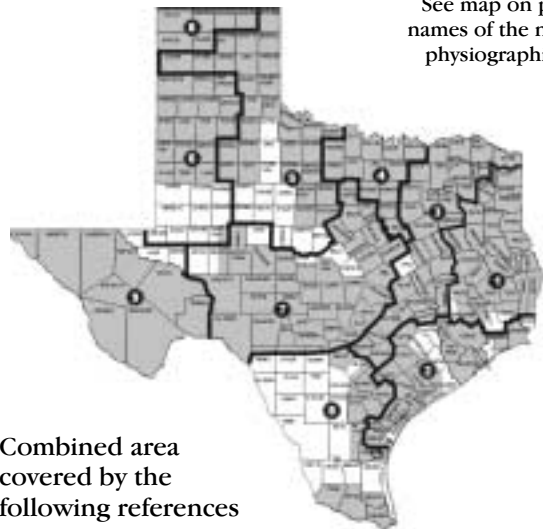
**By Cliff Shackelford, Nongame Ornithologist and State Coordinator of
Texas Partners in Flight, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Austin**
<clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us>

Included here are bird checklists for Texas that include seasonal bird abundance by region or an area of at least four counties. There are several large gaps that are not treated in such a checklist (e.g., the South Texas Brushlands away from both the Gulf Coast and Lower Rio Grande Valley; the area immediately south of the South High Plains).

There are also numerous county or single-location bird checklists (e.g., state parks, refuges, sanctuaries, etc.), but these will not be included here. The purpose of this article is to inform the reader of available and important reference materials that cover a scale **larger** than a single locality or single county. I have also attempted to steer people in the right direction if interested in acquiring an included reference piece.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

See map on page 5 for names of the numbered physiographic regions



■ Combined area covered by the following references

Bird Checklists in Texas: Reference Material Providing Important Information (cont'd)

There are three statewide references that are available, but are quite general in their broad scale scope. These include:

Oberholser, H.C. 1974. The Bird Life of Texas. University of Texas Press, Austin. 2 vols., xxviii+1069 pp. Unfortunately, this is no longer in print; visit a rare book dealer.

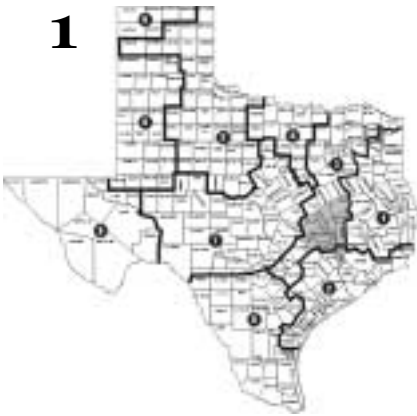
Shackelford, C. E. and M. W. Lockwood. 2000. The Birds of Texas: Occurrence and Seasonal Movements. PWD BK W7000-642 (8/00). Please see the TexBirds Archives <<http://list.audubon.org/archives/texbirds.html>> for a message posted on 26 October 2000 with details on how to obtain a free copy of this booklet.

Texas Ornithological Society. 1995. Checklist of the Birds of Texas, 3rd edition. Printed by Capital Printing, Inc. Austin, Texas, U.S.A. This is available from TOS <www.texasbirds.org/>.



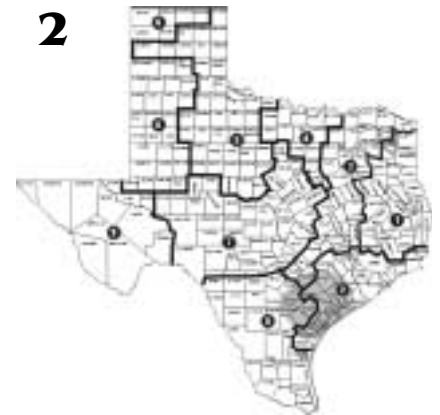
These are the regional or multi-county checklists/references listed in alphabetical order by first author. I take full responsibility for any omissions or errors.

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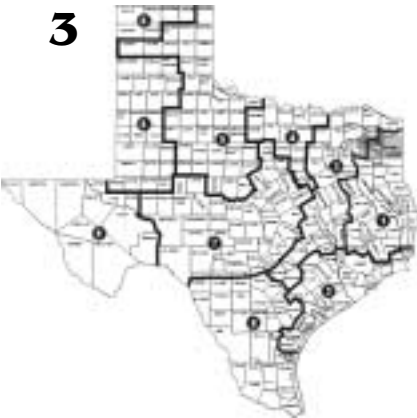
1. *Frenz, B. 1998. Checklist and Seasonal Distribution: Birds of the Central Brazos Valley, Texas. Published by the Rio Brazos Audubon Society.* For a printed copy, send \$1 plus a SASE (legal size) to Jim Anding, Rio Brazos Audubon Society, 5060 Cole Lane, College Station, TX 77845.

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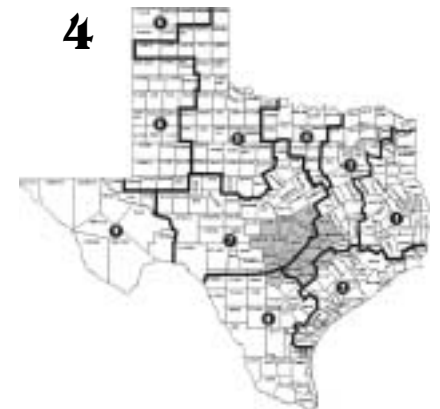
2. *Golden Crescent Nature Club. 1994. The Seasonal Checklist for Birds of the Central Coast.* For a printed copy, please see <http://ornifolks.org/GCNC/seasonal_distribution.htm>

3



3. *Ingold, J. 1995. Checklist of the Birds of Caddo Lake Watershed in Texas and Louisiana. Published by Louisiana State University-Shreveport.* To obtain a copy, please contact the Museum of Life Sciences, Louisiana State University in Shreveport, One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71115-2399 or checkout the following Web site <www.softdisk.com/comp/birds/>.

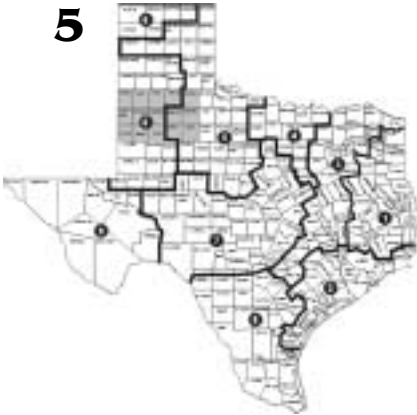
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4. *Kutac, E. A. and S. C. Caren. 1994. Birds and Other Wildlife of South Central Texas. University of Texas Press.* Available from UT Press <www.utexas.edu/utpress/>.

Bird Checklists in Texas: Reference Material Providing Important Information (cont'd)

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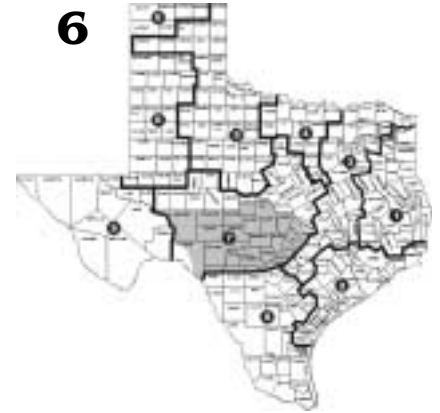


5. *Llano Estacado*. 1994. *Birds of the Texas South Plains*. Published by Llano Estacado Audubon Society. To obtain a hardcopy, send \$0.50 plus SASE to the Llano Estacado Audubon Society, P.O. Box 6066, Lubbock, TX 79403-6066.

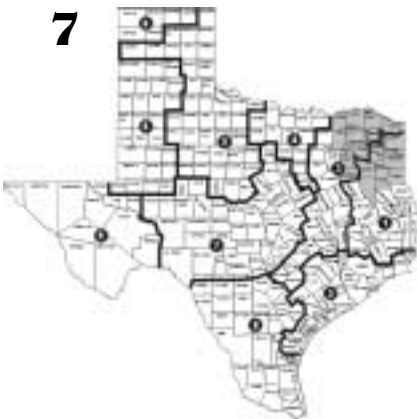
6a. Lockwood, M. W. 2001. *Birds of the Texas Hill Country*. University of Texas Press. Will be available from UT Press in fall 2001
<www.utexas.edu/utpress/>.

6b. Lockwood, M. W. 2001. *Birds of the Edwards Plateau: A Field Checklist*. PWD BK P4000-667. To obtain a hard copy, please e-mail Mark Klym for details at
<mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us>.

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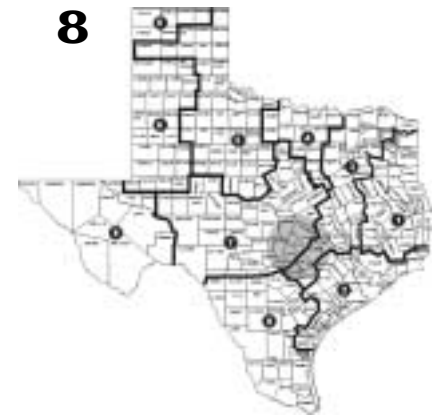
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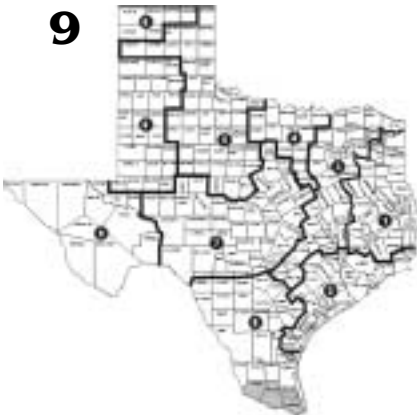
7. *Luneau, G.* 1999. *Birds of Northeast Texas: A Checklist, 2nd edition*. Published by the Northeast Texas Field Ornithologists. For a printed copy, see their Web site
<http://members.tripod.com/NETFO_TX/>.

8. *McCuller, T.* 1994. *Checklist and Seasonal Distribution: Birds of the Austin, Texas, Region*. Published by the Travis Audubon Society. For a printed copy, see their Web site
<www.travisaudubon.org/>.

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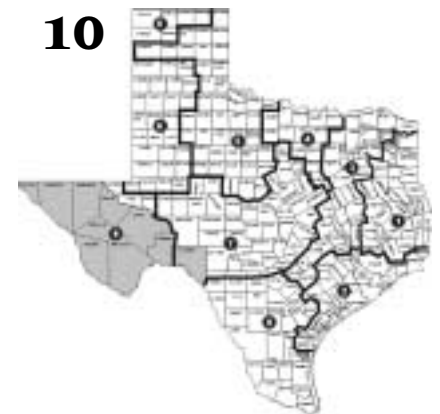


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9. *McKinney, B.* 1999. *A Checklist of Lower Rio Grande Valley Birds*. Self-published. For details on how to obtain a copy, please visit
<www.americanbirding.org/abasales/>.

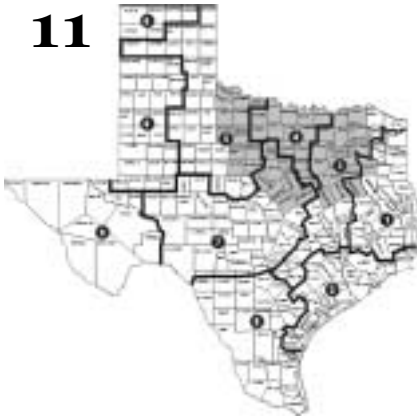
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10. *Peterson, J. and B. R. Zimmer.* 1998. *Birds of the Trans-Pecos*. University of Texas Press. Available from UT Press
<www.utexas.edu/utpress/>.

Bird Checklists in Texas: Reference Material Providing Important Information (cont'd)

11



11. Pulich, W. M. 1988. *The Birds of North Central Texas*. Texas A&M University Press. Available from Texas A&M University Press
<www.tamu.edu/upress/tamu/tamu.htm>.

12. Rappole, J. H. and G. W. Blacklock. 1985. *Birds of the Texas Coastal Bend: Abundance and Distribution*. Texas A&M University Press. Available from Texas A&M University Press
<www.tamu.edu/upress/tamu/tamu.htm>.

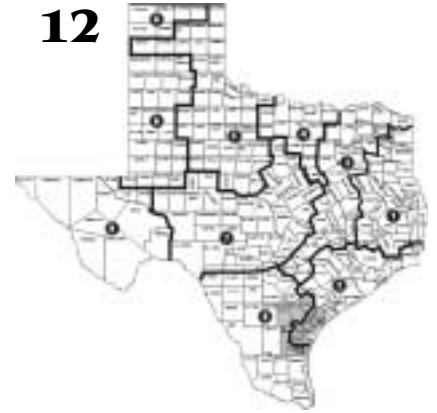
13. Richardson, D., E. Rozenburg, and D. Sarkozi. 1998. *A Birder's Checklist of the Upper Texas Coast*. Published by the Houston Outdoor Nature Club, Ornithology Group. For a printed copy, see their Web site
<www.outdoornatureclub.org>.

14. Seyffert, K. D. 2001. *Birds of the Texas Panhandle: Their Status, Distribution, and History*. Texas A&M University Press. Available from Texas A&M University Press
<www.tamu.edu/upress/tamu/tamu.htm>.

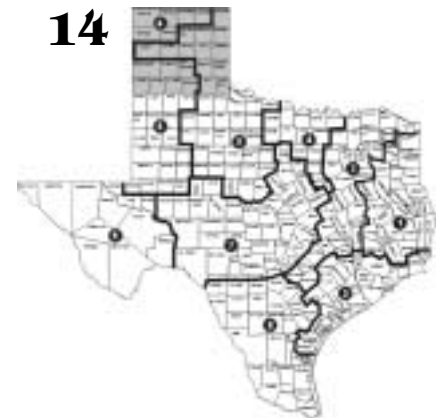
15. Tarter, D. 2000. *A Field Checklist: Birds of the Concho Valley Region, Texas*. 4th edition. Self-published. For a printed copy, send \$1 plus a SASE (legal size) to the San Angelo Nature Center, 7409 Knickerbocker Road, San Angelo, TX 76904.

16. Wolf, D. E., C. E. Shackelford, Guy G. Luneau, and C. Dean Fisber. 2001. *Birds of the Pineywoods of Eastern Texas: A Field Checklist*. PWD BK W7000-603 (1/01). To obtain a hard copy, please e-mail Mark Klym for details at <mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us>.

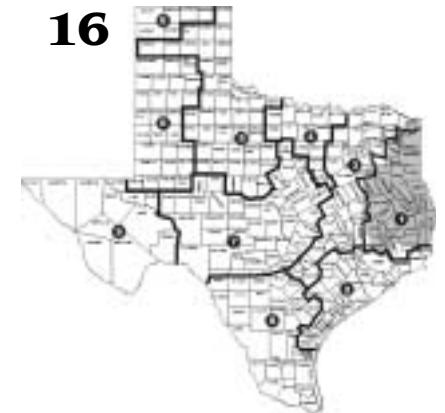
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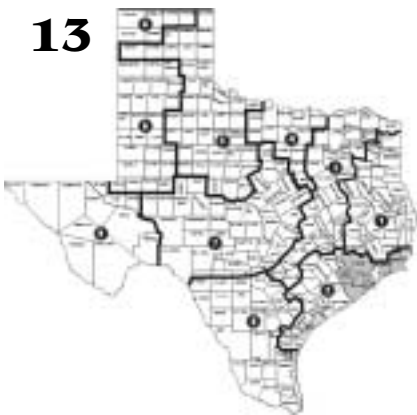
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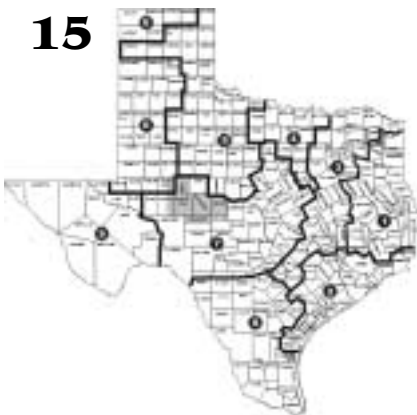
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For more information and more checklists, please see this
excellent Web site developed by Bert Frenz of Texas
<www.bafrenz.com/birds/Cklists.htm>.

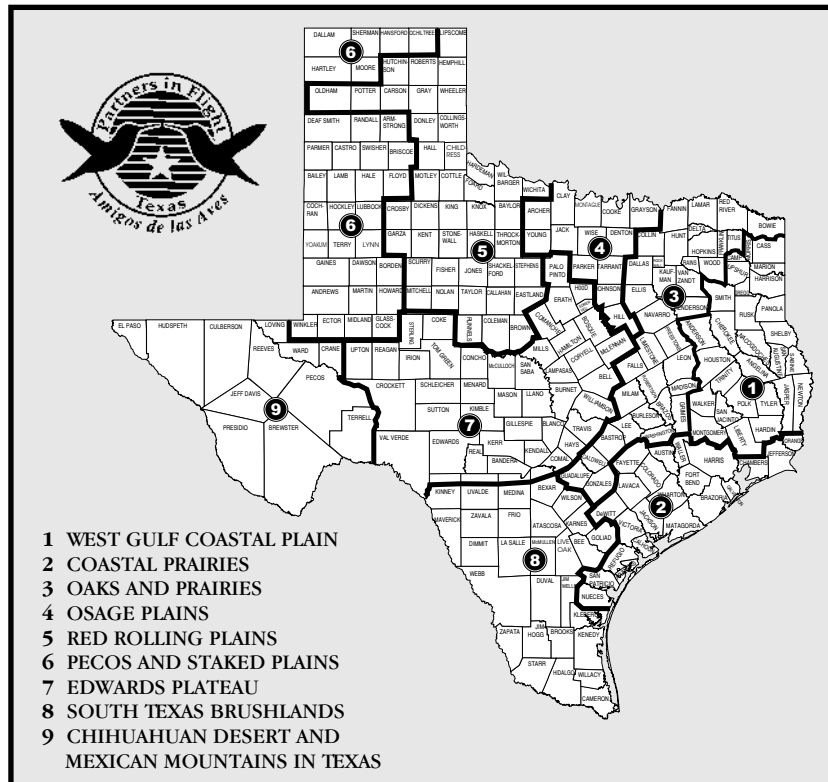
Texas: Part of the Southeast Region of Partners in Flight

By Dean Demarest,
Southeast Regional Coordinator, Partners in Flight, Atlanta, GA.
<dean_demarest@mail.dnr.state.ga.us>

In the last issue of this newsletter, David Pashley, U.S. Coordinator for the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), wrote about NABCI and the state of the art of bird conservation planning in North America. He also wrote of the need for continuing efforts from Partners in Flight (PIF) to keep the "...spirit and science of landbird conservation alive and vibrant." As the new Southeast Regional Coordinator for PIF, it will be my role to foster the continued participation and cooperation of those stakeholders poised to undertake this challenge in the

Southeast. This will be no small chore, as my position encompasses PIF activities in all or portions of 18 states, including most of Texas. Such a broad geography translates into opportunities to work with a legion of potential bird conservationists, representing government agencies, private corporations, non-profit organizations and the like. All can and do make significant contributions towards bird conservation and the vision of PIF, but regional leadership helps to insure that the "big picture" is preserved by offering direction to the actions and resources of those people taking on individual components of the whole bird conservation picture.

When I say "big picture," I of course mean restoring and maintaining the viability of regional and continental bird populations, which is a goal often obscured by the many individual, localized actions necessary to achieve it. By helping people recognize where their efforts fit within the larger perspective, and offering guidance to maximize the returns on those efforts, I hope to instill a sense of contribution and ownership in the landscape-level PIF vision. As is often the case, people in a position to make a positive difference on behalf of bird conservation are capable and



eager to act, but need assistance on how best to achieve results. These people may be land managers seeking to improve habitats for birds, researchers wishing to conduct studies with strong ecological relevance to PIF activities, or other conservation planners wanting to know how to integrate bird conservation into their planning efforts. As Regional Coordinator, I provide or refer them to appropriate sources of technical information, identify how their actions may contribute to meeting PIF bird conservation objectives developed for their region, review funding and research

proposals, and serve as point of contact that permits the merits of their proposed actions to be considered within the larger landscape context.

Such interactions are by no means one-way, however. I rely extensively on the skill, experience, and resources of these same people to help me achieve one of my outstanding responsibilities—the completion of PIF Bird Conservation Plans for the southeastern U.S. In the Southeast, these science-based plans are being developed to outline priority birds and species suites, current habitat conditions, and conservation opportunities and recommendations for 17 ecologically distinct landscape units, called physiographic areas. Plans have been completed for several southeastern physiographic areas, including the Mississippi Alluvial Valley and Southern Blue Ridge, but many are still moving toward completion. With such an expansive chunk of real estate and diversity of habitats to oversee in developing these plans, there is strong reliance on local experts to draft portions of plans for which they are the foremost authority. This collaborative effort results in the most comprehensive plan possible. An iterative cycle of plan development, implementation of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Texas:

Part of the Southeast Region of Partners in Flight (cont'd)

recommendations, and evaluation of progress leads to continual revision of plans and a constant state of improved conservation delivery.

In Texas, which overlaps nine PIF physiographic areas either wholly or in part, the first planning iteration is drawing to a close in the South Texas Brushlands, Edwards Plateau, and Chihuahuan Desert physiographic areas. These plans set out guidelines for the maintenance, restoration, and recovery of some uniquely Texan birds and habitats: Tropical Parulas and Altamira Orioles in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Black-capped Vireos and Golden-cheeked Warblers in the Hill Country, and Colima Warblers and

Montezuma Quail in the Chisos and Davis mountains, for example. However, much more planning remains to be completed for other Texas physiographic areas, with equally unique habitats and associated bird communities. In the ensuing months, I anticipate working with the dedicated experts affiliated with Texas PIF to bring the initial planning phase for all Texas physiographic areas to a close. Perhaps most importantly, however, I look forward to seeing the fruits of these labors transformed into tangible, on-the-ground benefits for Texas birdlife, and to keeping the spirit and science of landbird conservation alive and vibrant, in Texas and beyond.

Texas Coastal Marshes and Prairies Wild Bird Traveling Trunk

*By Curtis A. Spenrath,
Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District, Baytown, TX
<caspenrath@goosecreek.cisd.esc4.net>*

An exciting new Texas Partners in Flight Wild Bird Traveling Trunk has been completed for the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD) in Baytown, Texas. This traveling trunk focuses on the wild birds found along the Texas Coastal Prairies and Marshes and was modeled after the original Trans-Pecos Wild Bird Trunk completed by Shelly Scroggs, formerly with Texas Partners in Flight.

This traveling trunk consists of educational hands-on materials with accompanying curriculum activities for 5th grade students and teachers. It will support and enhance GCCISD's newly adopted Wetlands Unit and required field trip to the Baytown Nature Center. All 5th grade students in the district will have access to the wonderful instructional materials found in the trunk.

The trunk contains binoculars, 33 books, tracks and skeletons, bird seeds, owl pellets, feather displays, a hummingbird feeder and a Hummingbird (identification) Wheel, just to name a few of the many items found in this trunk.

Co-coordinators for the trunk are Susan Sloan, librarian, and Mary Page, fourth grade teacher, who both work at Ashbel Smith Elementary School in Baytown. Their objective was to create an educational tool that was exciting, interactive, and

would be a hands-on method of science instruction that would serve to motivate and educate students about local bird and wildlife conservation issues.

Without a doubt, the Baytown area is one of the best birding regions of the U.S. With its major migratory flyways and location along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, it is no surprise that people travel from all over the world to observe the large variety of native birds. Mrs. Sloan and Mrs. Page believe that this project will develop a greater appreciation and awareness of our local environment. By stimulating curiosity, birding could become a lifetime hobby for our students, and it would be nice to utilize scientific method and inquiry, and literally begin exploration in our own backyards.

The project was a collaborative effort between Texas Partners in Flight, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Goose Creek CISD, and the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center in Baytown. The funding for this project came from an innovative grant awarded by the Goose Creek CISD Title I Department.

For more information on creating a Wild Bird Trunk for your own school district, please contact Susan Sloan. Her mailing address is P.O. Box 30, Baytown, TX 77522 and her e-mail address is <sasloan@goosecreek.cisd.esc4.net>.

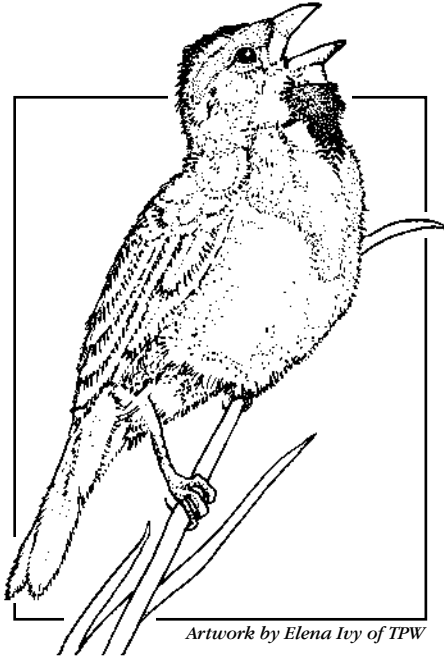
The Dickcissel: Texas Breeding Status and Future

By Ken Steigman, Heard Museum, McKinney, TX
<ksteigman@mciworld.com>

The Dickcissel is a key avian grassland species with a breeding range that includes most of the central United States, including Texas. Dickcissels breed in open meadows and pastures, grasslands and variously aged old fields, moist disturbed prairie areas and marshy areas with adjacent cultivated fields. Although Dickcissels have been common throughout the Central Plains, as many other species of Neotropical songbirds, they have experienced major population declines during the last 30 years. As such, Dickcissels were placed on The Blue List by the Audubon Society in 1978-82 and on the "special concern" list in 1986.

Causes of their decline historically implicated the destruction and fragmentation of both breeding and wintering habitat as principal causes. Within the recent past, research on their wintering grounds in Venezuela indicates that huge numbers of birds have been poisoned on their nightly roosts by rice farmers attempting to prevent further losses from the hundreds of thousands of foraging Dickcissels in the rice fields. The entire continental Dickcissel population concentrates in a relatively tiny geographic area, much like the Monarch butterfly wintering in the mountains of Michoacan, Mexico. This high winter mortality coupled with marginal reproductive success during the breeding season in North America has reduced the global population of Dickcissels by alarming proportions.

Research illustrates that nesting success varies widely over the breeding range of Dickcissels, from as high as 49% in Oklahoma, to as low as 14% in Kansas. In north-central Texas, a four-year study on nesting Dickcissels was conducted on a high quality tallgrass prairie remnant where nesting success rates varied between 25-30%. Snake predation proved to be the critical factor limiting nesting



Artwork by Elena Ivy of TPW

success. Predation rates on nests were so high that the few recorded attempts of brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds were unsuccessful. Snake trapping throughout the Dickcissel nesting period revealed that prairie kingsnakes, speckled kingsnakes, and yellow-bellied racers were the principal predators of Dickcissel eggs and young.

However, the above data were collected prior to the initial invasion of the red imported fire ant. In areas where red imported fire ant populations are not controlled, there is evidence that the newly hatched nestlings are killed and eaten within the first day or two of hatching. This more recent threat to the breeding success of Dickcissels (and other ground-nesting grassland species)

appears to be more formidable than any other, considering the lack of any widespread effective biological or other non-toxic control measure to control this serious exotic pest. To date, there are no data available for the nesting success of "roadside" nesting populations of Dickcissels. Because of increased fire ant populations in many of these areas, in addition to native predators, significant reproduction is doubtful and the future is not so bright for Dickcissels.

International conservation efforts are being made to limit the destruction of Dickcissels on their winter territory and to help local farmers find innovative solutions to prevent crop losses due to foraging Dickcissels. The conservation and management of significant grassland habitat across the historic range of the Dickcissel is critical to this species long-term survival.

Editor's Note: For additional information on the plight of the Dickcissel, try running a Web search using the species name as the key word. There are several good Web sites available on this species.

Check Out the Parks and Wildlife Web Site

From bird checklists to bird migration to birding trail information, be sure and check out the Texas Parks and Wildlife Web site for information on birds and birding. Spend some time surfing our site under the Nature Page <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/birding/>.

Monitoring Prairie Restoration Efforts by Sampling Bird Diversity and Density

By David Heinicke, Texas Parks and Wildlife,
Brazos Bend State Park, Needville, TX
<brazosvo@bbbspvo.org>

Brazos Bend State Park (BBSP), located southwest of Houston in Fort Bend County, is comprised of 5,000 acres of hardwood bottomland forests, marshes, lakes, swamps, creeks, and grasslands. Approximately 450 acres of the park is Coastal Tallgrass Prairie. The park property was privately held until the mid 1970s. Due to years of fire suppression, overgrazing and invasion of noxious and exotic vegetation, the condition of the park's prairies have suffered. Invasion of Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*), baccharis (*Baccharis balimifolia*), macartney rose (*Rosa bracteata*), dewberry (*Rubus trivialis*), and yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) have left the prairie areas in poor condition. The current management plan at Brazos Bend State Park includes restoration of these prairies. Prairie restoration efforts include prescribed burns, periodic mowing, and selective chemical vegetation control.

Traditionally, vegetation surveys are conducted during prairie restoration projects to measure the success of the undertaking. This study is an attempt to look not only at the flora, but to also consider the fauna of the restored area in measuring success.

The Grassland Bird Banding Program is a project of long-term monitoring of grassland birds and vegetation at Brazos Bend State Park for the purpose of determining:

1. the species and populations of birds using the prairie,
2. how management practices affect bird population and diversity,
3. whether certain bird species prefer specific conditions within the prairie,
4. whether the same individuals are returning to the same location each year.

We hope to be able to show that over the course of the next several years, as the prairies are restored, the number of grassland bird species and individuals will increase. If prairies are allowed to decline, number of grassland species and individuals will also decline even though the overall avian diversity will increase with woody encroachment.

Methods – Mist nets are placed at random points on the prairie and birds are “driven” into the nets by a team of volunteers. This is repeated several times until all birds are either “flushed out” or captured from the sample area. Birds captured are recorded, banded and released. Birds flushed, but not captured, are noted and identified when possible. Nets are then moved to a new location and the

method is repeated. Monitoring continues from November through March.

Vegetation Surveys – Vegetation surveys were conducted as part of Project Prairie Birds. The surveys were conducted along ten 100-meter transects set up at random locations within each prairie site. Data were collected from within a 1-meter square area at 5 points along the transect. Percent of vegetation types (grasses, forbs, and woody plants), presence of imported fire ants, standing water, and gopher mounds were recorded in addition to the height and density of vegetation. Vegetation density and height were measured using a 1-meter density board divided into 4 sections. The percent of each section of the density board that was covered by vegetation was recorded.

Five sites at Brazos Bend will be surveyed for this study. Each site was divided into three areas varying in size from 20 to 60 acres. Prescribed burns were conducted on three of these sites (sites 1, 4 and 5) in the fall of 1999, leaving only two sites (sites 2 and 3) with suitable habitat for wintering birds this season. Records of management practices (burns, shredding, and chemical treatment) are also documented. Results of vegetation surveys are not presented here, but are available upon request.

Management History of Sites

Table 1-1

SITE #	YEAR	SEASON	ACTION
Site 2	1994	Fall	Mowed
Site 2	1995	N/A	No Activity
Site 2	1996	Fall	Burned
Site 2	1997	N/A	No Activity
Site 2	1998	N/A	No Activity
Site 2	1999	N/A	No Activity
Site 3	1994	Fall	Mowed
Site 3	1995	N/A	No Activity
Site 3	1996	Fall	Burned
Site 3	1997	N/A	No Activity
Site 3	1998	N/A	No Activity
Site 3	1999	N/A	No Activity

Monitoring Prairie Restoration Efforts by Sampling Bird Diversity and Density (cont'd)

Results – Winter 1999-2000 was the first year of this project. In this first season, a total of 162 individuals was banded representing 9 species of wintering grassland or shrubland birds.

Table 1-2

SPECIES	NUMBER BANDED
House Wren	1
Sedge Wren	10
Savannah Sparrow	2
Henslow's Sparrow	4
Le Conte's Sparrow	25
Song Sparrow	3
Lincoln's Sparrow	11
Swamp Sparrow	105
White-crowned Sparrow	1

Henslow's Sparrow – This species was found in site 2, areas B and C and site 3. This species seems to prefer low, damp areas. The presence of this range-wide declining species represents the most significant find of the season.

Le Conte's Sparrow – This species was found in site 2, areas A, B & C. It was found almost exclusively in the higher elevations of the prairie. It is far more abundant than was previously thought.

Lincoln's Sparrow – This species was found at site 3, area C and site 2 area C. They were found at the forest edge or in low areas with tall grass, often seen associated with Swamp Sparrows.

Savannah Sparrow – This species was found at site 2, area C. This common sparrow is normally found in open areas along roads and trails. It is not commonly found in habitat types surveyed here.

Song Sparrow – This species was found at site 2, area C. It was found at forested edges and low damp areas.

Swamp Sparrow – The most common of the grassland species at BBSP, it was found in all locations. As expected, low damp areas (site 2, area C) produced the highest numbers of this species.

White-crowned Sparrow – This species was found at site 2, area C. Mostly a species of shrub and thicket than of the prairie, one immature individual was chased from the forest edge into the net.

Sedge Wren – This species was found at site 2, areas A and C and site 3, areas B and C. It is more common than these data represent. Because of their tiny size and secretive habits, they are difficult to capture.

House Wren – This species was found at site 3, area C. Only one was found during the course of the season. House Wrens normally are found in low, damp areas than were surveyed here.

This season's results will serve as baseline numbers. This study is meant to be an on-going multi-year project; any conclusions drawn at this point would be premature. Currently, there is also a small mammal census underway, plus Project Prairie Birds and its vegetation surveys are done annually. All of these data will be considered before making any conclusions about prairie restoration efforts. Annual reports on this project will be made available upon request.

This project proved to be very labor intensive. There were many cold, early mornings of setting up nets, dragging ropes and chasing sparrows. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out. Without their help this would not have been possible.

Conserving Land Birds

For a free copy of a new 92-page National Partners in Flight book entitled *Conservation of the Land Birds of the United States* that describes the Partners in Flight planning process and provides summaries of the physiographic areas, please contact the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) at: American Bird Conservancy, P.O. Box 249, 4249 Loudoun Ave., The Plains, VA 20198.

The ABC Web site is <www.abcbirds.org> and try the PIF Web site at <www.partnersinflight.org> for any additional information.

Bird Conservation Plan Completed for Osage Plains

The PIF Conservation Plan for birds in the Osage Plains Physiographic Area (or "Cross Timbers") was released in October 2000. This, and many other PIF plans, can be viewed on the PIF Web site at <www.partnersinflight.org> or more specifically at <www.blm.gov/wildlife/pifplans.htm>. For a hard copy of the Osage Plain Plan by Dr. Jane Fitzgerald, please contact Brad Jacobs, Natural History Division, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, P. O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Phone: 573-751-4115 x 3648. E-mail: <jacobbb@mail.conservation.state.mo.us>.

Status of the Horned Lark and Western Meadowlark in the Texas Panhandle

By Ken Seyffert, Amarillo, TX

No e-mail, so please write to: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

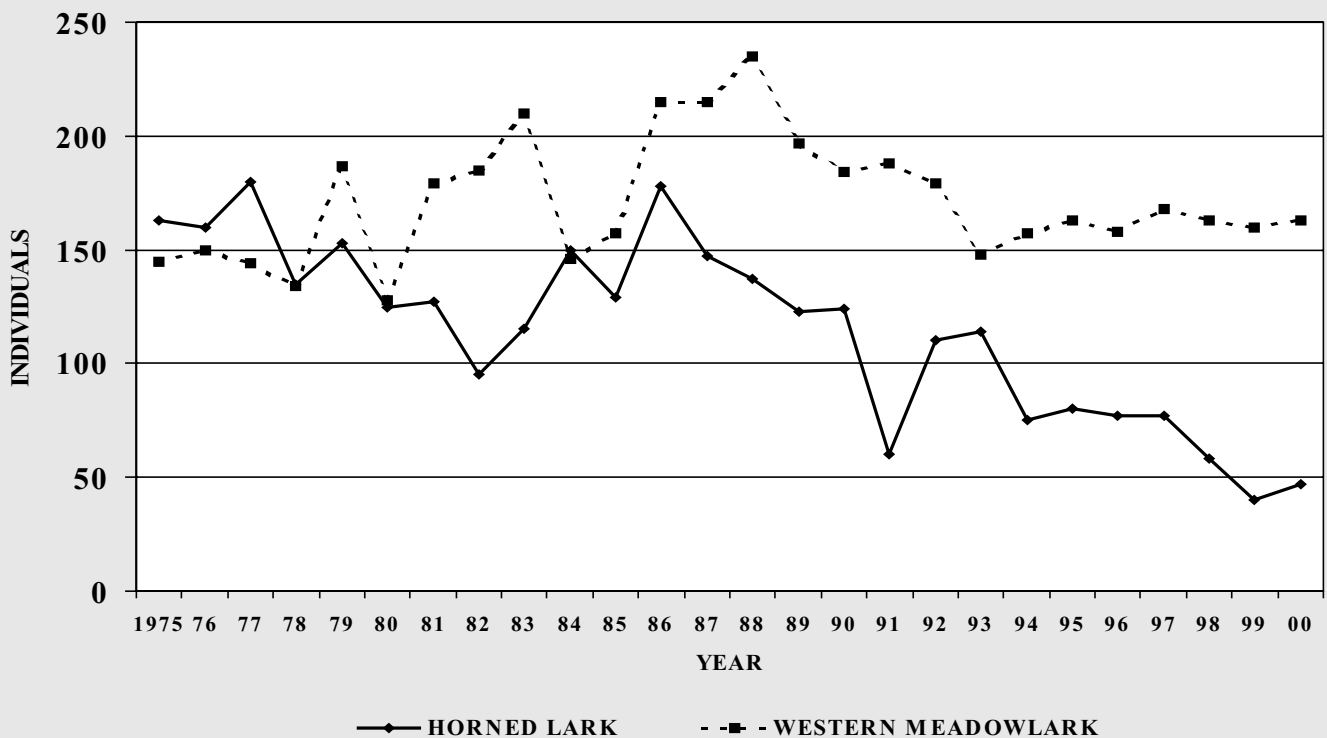
In 1966 the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) was established east of the Mississippi River to estimate and monitor continental and regional changes in bird populations. The survey was then expanded in 1967 to include states lying west of the river. These surveys are conducted during the peak of the nesting season, primarily in June. Each route is 24.5 miles long, with a total of fifty stops located at 0.5-mile intervals along the route. A three-minute point count is conducted at each stop, during which the observer records all birds heard or seen.

Six Texas Panhandle survey routes conducted yearly since 1975 were selected to review how two grassland species—Horned Lark and Western Meadowlark—commonly found in the area throughout the year, have fared over the 26-year period from 1975-2000. The counts are: Booker (Lipscomb Co.); Channing (Hartley and Oldham cos.); Miami (Roberts Co.); Pantex (Armstrong and Carson cos.); Texline (Dallam Co.); Waka (Ochiltree and Hansford cos.). The vegetation types of the counts are: Booker – mesquite shrub/grassland, crops; Channing – grassland, sandsage/shin oak brush, mesquite brush, mesquite shrub/grassland, mesquite/juniper brush, crops; Miami – mesquite shrub/grassland; Pantex – crops; Texline – grassland,

sandsage/shin oak brush, mesquite shrub/grassland, crops; Waka – crops. With the exception of the first four years of the Booker, Miami, and Waka counts, all were conducted by the same observers. This continuity is important as each observer has his or her own bias based on sense perception – in the case of these surveys, by sight and sound. A total of 17,245 Horned Larks and 26,108 Western Meadowlarks was recorded.

As shown in the figure below, the overall status of the Western Meadowlark remained fairly steady despite some rather precipitous annual fluctuations. The Horned Lark, however, shows a drastic decline since the peak reached in 1986. This decline is not confined to one or two counts but is evidenced by all. Taking the first five-year averages (1975-1979) and comparing them with the last five-year averages (1996-2000), the Booker count experienced a 71% decline, Channing 46%, Miami 40%, Pantex 76%, Texline 46%, and Waka 56%.

The reasons for such declines are unknown. Surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey are invaluable in ascertaining trends in bird populations, but cannot answer the “why” questions of decrease and increase in status.



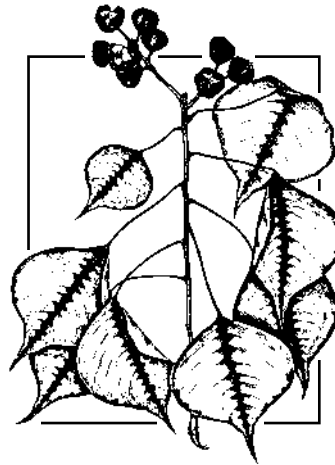
Interactions Between Migrant Landbirds and an Invasive Exotic Plant: The Chinese Tallow Tree

By Wylie C. Barrow, Jr., USGS, National Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, LA <wylie_barrow@usgs.gov>; and Ian Renne, Department of Biological Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

The Chenier Plain, situated along the northwest Gulf coast, is known to be an important stopover area for trans-Gulf migrant landbirds. Hundreds of thousands of migrant birds stopover in the coastal woodlands just north of the Gulf shoreline each spring after their Gulf crossing. These migrants spend one to several days in these woods replenishing fat reserves (the fuel that provides the energy for migration). The landscape has changed greatly in historic times. Much of the original chenier woods have been fragmented and their structure simplified by grazing and other anthropogenic factors. Forests in other habitats have been similarly changed. On the other hand, human activity has resulted in an increase of woody habitat on levees and spoil banks and abandoned rice fields. Species composition has been affected by the invasion of Chinese tallow tree and other exotics. For instance, since 1970 tallow woodland has increased from 5 to 30,000 acres in Galveston County, Texas alone. A similar trend exists for all counties and parishes within the Chenier Plain.

Are these “new” woodlands used by trans-Gulf migrants after crossing the Gulf of Mexico? Do tallow woodlands provide suitable habitat for migrant landbirds that need to rapidly rebuild fat reserves for continued migration? We chose the Mermentau River Basin in Louisiana as a study area to begin to answer these questions. The gallery forests associated with the drainages in the Mermentau Basin are known to be an important stopover or staging area for migrant landbirds in spring (identified by S. Gauthreaux using NWS WSR-88 Radar). We conducted simultaneous timed-area searches in paired tallow woodland patches (n = 7) and riparian forest sites (n = 7). The area of the tallow patches ranged from 5 - 25 ha. We established 14 plots that were 50 x 300 m and were sampled for 7 days in 1998 and 14 days in 1999 (16-30 April, the peak of spring migration). We analyzed these data using ANOVA, with habitat type, migratory status, and site as main factors including the interactions of the birds. Power analysis was done to determine our ability to detect differences, if they existed, in use of habitat type for each species.

We found that many spring migrants use tallow forest patches after crossing the Gulf of Mexico. Species richness did not



Since 1970 tallow woodland has increased from 5 to 30,000 acres in Galveston County, Texas alone.

differ between the two habitat types. Five migrant species were more common in tallow patches (Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Kingbird, Gray Catbird, Orchard Oriole, and White-throated Sparrow) and 5 species were more abundant in riparian forest (Red eyed Vireo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Northern Parula, and Prothonotary Warbler). Other species (n = 20) occupied both habitats with equal frequency. In related studies, we found that the canopy of Chinese tallow harbored fewer arthropods (insects and spiders) than the common native trees (Based on 40 1-m branch clippings each from Chinese tallow, hackberry, live oak, yaupon, and cherry laurel). Of particular concern was the absence of Lepidopteran larvae from the Chinese tallow foliage. Lepidopteran larvae (caterpillars of moths and butterflies) are one of the most important food items for migrants during spring migration. The mechanism deterring leaf-chewing insects from associating with Chinese tallow is probably related to the secondary compounds found within its foliage (it is a member of the Euphorbiaceae family and its foliage is known to be toxic to livestock). Migrants fed (searched for insects) in tallow foliage significantly less than expected based on the availability of tallow trees in mixed hardwood forest (these results are based on foraging observations systematically collected within 24 coastal woodland study plots from the Mississippi River Delta to Galveston Bay, Texas).

Chinese tallow trees do not seem to provide the food resources furnished by the original vegetation and are an even greater problem because their abundance is now greatly increasing at the expense of native prairies. Because Chinese tallow has a depalperate insect load and is significantly avoided by foliage-gleaning insectivores, tallow forest patches may function as poor refueling or stopover areas. Because many spring migrants make landfall in forest patches dominated by Chinese tallow after long Gulf crossings, we suggest that tallow woodlands may be an ecological trap that provides cover but little food for the energy-intensive demands of migration. We view the continued invasion of the tallow tree and the formation of tallow dominated woodlands along the northern Gulf coast as a factor that may negatively affect the migratory success of many migrants by providing abundant, poor-quality habitat.

Compaq Computers Donated to TX PIF for Field-Use by Avian Researchers

**By Cliff Shackelford, Nongame Ornithologist and State Coordinator of
Texas Partners in Flight, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Austin
<clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us>**

In 1997, Compaq Computer Corporation in Texas graciously donated computer equipment to Texas Partners in Flight. This donation included four laptop computers for use while traveling with the Great Texas Birding Classic in April along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. Since these laptops were used by the Birding Classic Staff for this week-long event plus some pre- and post-use periods, that left about 11 months of the year that they were not in use. It was decided to lend these laptops to avian researchers, mainly in Texas. The following is a list of the people and their projects that have used one of these laptops.

Ray Brown, graduate student at SFASU and formerly with the U.S. Forest Service in Nacogdoches, was working on nest-cavity preferences in the Prothonotary Warbler in eastern Texas.

Rob Fergus of the University of Texas at Austin was compiling all bird records for Hornsby Bend as part of his doctoral dissertation in geography.

Madge Lindsay of TPW's World Birding Center Project in the Lower Rio Grande Valley has a laptop permanently issued to her for use on this project.

Marsha May Reimer, Southwest Texas State University graduate student and TX PIF Volunteer, worked on both the Flight STAR program and her thesis project: "Baseline Bird Survey at the Aquarena Center (Hays Co.)."

Cecilia Riley with the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in Lake Jackson has loaned them to her Field Coordinators of both the Smith Point Hawk Watch (fall) and Project Prairie Birds (winter).

Audrey Washburn and Dr. Ken Meyer with the Avian Research and Conservation Institute in Gainesville, FL were using a laptop on their extensive work with the Swallow-tailed Kite in the U.S. and South America.

Curt Zonick, formerly with the Texas Audubon Society, was conducting research on Piping and Snowy plovers on the Texas Gulf coast.

The following is a copy of the advertisement that was publicized. If you or someone you know is eligible and interested in using one of these laptops, please see the below.

SEEKING PROPOSALS FROM AVIAN RESEARCHERS

The state office of Partners In Flight (PIF) in Austin is accepting proposals from avian researchers in Texas that require the use of a laptop computer (notebook) in their research. The Compaq Computer Corporation graciously donated Pentium 120 laptops to be used for the Great Texas Birding Classic held each spring. For eleven months of the year, these computers will be available to researchers conducting avian research with the understanding that all publications, papers and reports bear the name Compaq Computer Corporation and Texas Partners In Flight in the acknowledgments section.

Send a one or two page proposal describing the research project and the importance of the study to bird conservation in Texas to: Clifford E. Shackelford, State Coordinator of TX PIF, Texas Parks and Wildlife, 3000 IH-35 South, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78704.

Editor's Book Pick

There is a new book that is a *must read* by all bird enthusiasts. This fact-filled book explains habitat preferences of birds in a very readable style. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in North American birds and their conservation no matter what your level of interest or expertise may be.

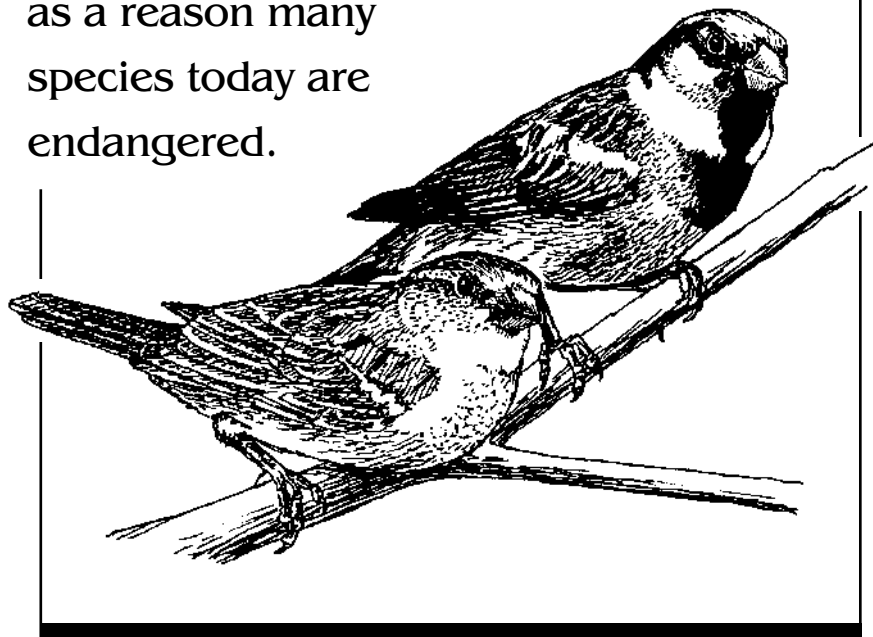
Askins, Robert A. 2000. *Restoring North America's Birds: Lessons from Landscape Ecology*. 288p. Yale University Press (ISBN 0-300-07967-2). <www.yale.edu/yup/>

Exotic Grasses and Native Bird Communities in South Texas: Is there an Impact?

By William P. Kuvlesky, Jr., Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute,
Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX
<william.kuvlesky@tamuk.edu>

Most of you who read this newsletter can identify a substantial number of the 620 species of birds that have been found in Texas. Additionally, many of you may know which species are considered natives and which are considered exotics, or species that have not evolved here but have successfully adapted to Texas habitats after being introduced from a foreign ecosystem. For example, most Texas bird enthusiasts know that starlings are exotic birds, and many birders even know that house sparrows and ring-necked pheasants are successful residents that are native to a foreign continent. For some people though, these exotic bird species are simply enjoyable to watch. Very few bird enthusiasts, however, realize the potential threat that exotic species pose to native flora and fauna. Many exotic species successfully become established in new habitats because environmental conditions are very similar to their native habitats, and no natural predators or diseases exist to keep these populations *in check*. Consequently, most very successful invaders eventually dominate new habitats and eliminate native competitors. Exotic species invasions rank second behind habitat loss, as a reason many species today are endangered.

Exotic species invasions rank second behind habitat loss, as a reason many species today are endangered.



Tens of thousands of exotic plants and animals have been introduced to the United States either purposefully or inadvertently since the early 1900s. The vast majority of these exotic species never became a concern because most were unable to survive being transplanted to a new environment. However, a few exotic species not only survived but also did spectacularly well once they were released or escaped. Scientists interested in invasion biology have developed a general rule, called the "Tens Rule," to describe the impacts of exotic species invasions on native ecosystems. As mentioned previously, tens of thousands of exotic species have been introduced to the U.S. since record keeping was first instituted. Of these tens of thousands introduced, only 10% survived introduction, and of the 10% that survived introduction, only 10% of the exotic species ever became **p r o b l e m s**. Unfortunately, the few exotic species that become problems tend to become huge problems that not only threatened native ecosystems, but also threaten public health and also cost businesses and taxpayers billions of dollars annually.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Join the American Bird Conservancy

Interested in reading details on International Partners in Flight accomplishments, features, and issues?

If so, please join the American Bird Conservancy to receive both Bird Conservation (quarterly magazine) and Bird Calls (newsletter; three times per year).

Visit the ABC website for contact information <www.abcbirds.org>.

Exotic Grasses and Native Bird Communities in South Texas: Is there an Impact? (cont'd)

Any organism that can injure or kill a person generally gets the public's attention very quickly so a few exotic organisms are better known than the majority. For instance, it would be difficult to find an adult in Texas who does not know what Africanized honey bees, or killer bees, are or what a threat HIV represents to humans. A few Texans may even know that both the insect and virus are exotic that have been introduced from Africa. Therefore, exotic animals, insects and diseases generally receive a great deal more notoriety than do exotic plants. Nevertheless, exotic plant species are actually of greater concern to ecologists because far more exotic plant species have successfully invaded native ecosystems than have exotic animals. For example, 47% of the flora of California currently consists of foreign invaders, and millions of acres of the state are now dominated by exotic plants that have effectively excluded the historical native dominants. The state of Texas does not yet equal California in terms of the number of exotic plants that have invaded, though the amount of acreage dominated by exotic flora likely rivals that of California. Thousands of acres, indeed small to mid-sized landscapes, of South Texas are dominated by various species of exotic grasses. Most of these grass species are native to South Africa and were introduced to South Texas during the early to mid part of the last century to serve as forage for cattle. Consequently, these landscapes dominated by exotic grasses such as buffelgrass and Lehmann lovegrass are largely found on private ranches.

Livestock producers, therefore, generally view buffelgrass, for example, as a desirable plant because during portions of the year when the plant is actively growing, its new growth provides palatable, nutritious food for cattle. Moreover, pastures consisting of exotic grasses have some wildlife value because white-tailed deer often use buffelgrass as fawning habitat and exotic grasses provide escape cover for bobwhite and scaled quail. Still, evidence exists that the introduction of exotic grasses may reduce native ecosystem diversity. The evidence is meager because only a few

research projects have been conducted that examined the impact of exotic grasses on native flora and fauna of the southwestern U.S. Nevertheless, the results of one study done on the semi-arid grasslands of southeastern Arizona demonstrated rather conclusively that native plant, insect, bird, and reptile species diversity were significantly lower on a pasture dominated by exotic grass compared to pasture dominated by native herbaceous vegetation. No one has ever conducted research in South Texas to determine if exotic grasses impact native flora and fauna in a manner similar to that reported in Arizona. However, numerous birders who frequent South Texas claim that they observe fewer native bird species on sites dominated by exotic grasses compared to sites still dominated by native grasses. In contrast, exotic grass proponents sincerely believe that the introduction of exotic grasses has not negatively impacted wildlife habitat in South Texas. Clearly, research is needed to determine if exotic grass introductions in South Texas have impacted flora and fauna native to region.

In an effort to resolve the issue with regard to the native bird community, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CKWRI) at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) will embark on a 2.5-year study to determine if exotic grasses impact native bird communities in South Texas. The study will be conducted near Artesia Wells on the TPW Chaparral Wildlife Management Area and neighboring ranches. If results of this study indicate that native bird species diversity is reduced in exotic grass communities, additional research will be conducted to identify the ecological mechanisms responsible for reduced bird species diversity. It may then be possible to design research projects devoted to determining how exotic grasses can be effectively managed on property where management is desired. But first we must conduct the research necessary to determine if anything is going on between exotic grasses and native bird communities in South Texas. Project results will determine the direction, or even the necessity, of additional research.

PIF Proceedings Available

The PIF Proceedings from the Cape May, NJ workshop in 1995 have been available at the following Web site since 1999 <<http://birds.cornell.edu/pifcapemay>>. These proceedings are now available in hardcopy thanks to the USDA Forest Service. The citation is:

Bonney, Rick; Pashley, David N.; Cooper, Robert J.; Niles, Larry, eds. 2000. Strategies for bird conservation: The Partners in Flight planning process; Proceedings of the 3rd Partners in Flight Workshop; 1995 October 1-5; Cape May, NJ. Proceedings RMRS-P-16. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 281 p.

To order a free copy, send an e-mail with your mailing information in *label form* and specify the publication title and number to <rschneider@fs.fed.us> or call 970/498-1392.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and The Endangered Species Act: Details on Providing Protection for Native Birds in the U.S.

Reprinted with permission by Ellen Paul, Executive Director,
The Ornithological Council, Washington, D.C.

<epaul@dclink.com>

Concern about potentially negative interactions between feral cats and birds has led to speculation about whether Test-Trap-Vaccinate-Alter-Release (TTVAR) programs that result in the death of protected migratory birds could result in federal liability for participants in cat release.

Ellen Paul, Executive Director of the Ornithological Council, believes that there is a good argument to be made that TTVAR programs could violate the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Endangered Species Act if they result in the taking of species protected by those laws. The term "take" under the MBTA is defined by the Secretary of the Interior as "pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect." The MBTA is a strict liability statute (with one exception made last year with regard to baiting), meaning that to find that a violation has occurred, there need only be a finding that the act occurred. There need not have been intent to take.

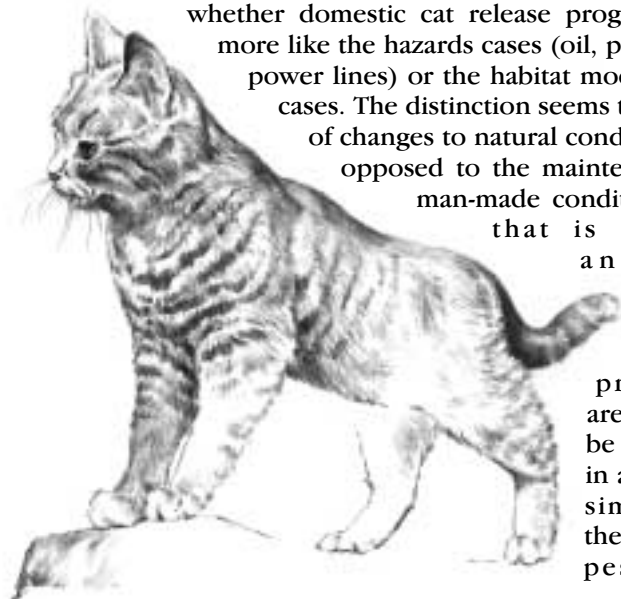
The courts have held that migratory bird deaths resulting from otherwise lawful activities in which there was no intent to kill birds are actionable under the MBTA. In *U.S. v. FMC Corp.* (1978), a prosecution for the deaths of birds that consumed wastewater containing toxic substances was upheld. The accidental poisoning of birds resulting from misapplication of pesticides was also considered actionable in *U.S. v. Corbin Farm Serv.* (1978). Several cases involving the maintenance of hazardous conditions, such as oil sump pits, without protective measures to keep birds away from the oil, have also been successfully prosecuted.

Exceptions? It has been argued that "indirect take," or take incidental to some other lawful activity, does not fall within the meaning of the MBTA. So, for instance, the act of striking a bird that flies into the path of a moving car would not be considered take. Such an argument was made by the defendant in the case of *U.S. v. Moon Lake Electric Association*, (1999) in which the MBTA was invoked due to concern over avian mortality from collisions with power lines. The Moon Lake opinion stated that a finding of liability under the MBTA requires a showing of proximate causation – that the death of the bird would have to be reasonably anticipated or foreseen as a natural consequence of the wrongful act. The court said that construing every killing within the statute, such as deaths caused by

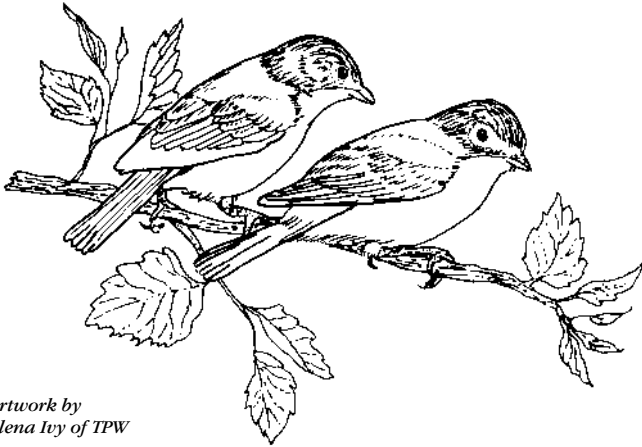
automobiles, planes, plate glass modern office buildings or picture windows in residential dwellings into which birds fly, would offend reason and common sense. In fact, avian mortality resulting from collisions with window glass in office buildings and homes is well-documented and would likely be considered foreseeable should the scientific evidence be considered in a court proceeding.

The courts have also ruled that other legal activities that result in bird deaths are not actionable. Specifically, habitat modification or degradation resulting from the sale of timber does not violate the MBTA. The Moon Lake court distinguished this and other habitat modification cases by saying that no actual bird deaths had occurred in those cases. Further, and more significantly, the Moon Lake court rejected the Ninth Circuit's distinction between direct and indirect taking. The key element, according to the Moon Lake decision, is proximate causation.

MBTA and TTVAR. The question that arises is whether domestic cat release programs are more like the hazards cases (oil, pesticides, power lines) or the habitat modification cases. The distinction seems to be one of changes to natural conditions, as opposed to the maintenance of man-made conditions. If that is a valid analysis, then the TTVAR programs are likely to be regarded in a manner similar to the oil and pesticides



The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and The Endangered Species Act: Details on Providing Protection for Native Birds in the U.S. (cont'd)



Artwork by
Elena Ivy of TPW

cases. Probably the best way to analyze this issue is to follow the logic in Moon Lake and ask if the cat release programs are a proximate cause of bird deaths. Proximate cause is generally defined as something that might be reasonably anticipated or foreseen as a natural consequence of the wrongful act. Observational studies, some casual, some methodical, have yielded substantial data that birds are killed by cats.

As a practical matter, prosecutions under the MBTA are not a viable solution for most of these problems. Instead, those concerned with bird mortality resulting from human activity have made efforts to work with the relevant industries. To date, the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee and the Avian Subcommittee of the National Wind Coordinating Committee have succeeded in developing voluntary industry standards to reduce avian mortality. To be sure, the FWS has reminded these industries of the need to comply with the MBTA, but has taken the stand that it is more effective to stimulate voluntary action than to prosecute.

In the case of telecommunications towers, there is now a Communications Tower Working Group, comprised of representatives from all sectors of that industry, the federal government (FWS, FCC, FAA, Coast Guard), bird

conservation groups, and ornithologists, trying to achieve the same kind of cooperative effort attained by the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee.

ESA and TTVAR. Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the term “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Both civil and criminal penalties can be imposed on a violator. The USFWS regulations that implement the ESA define the term harass to mean an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Thus, even if TTVAR cats do not kill birds, the effects on endangered bird species could rise to the level of harassment. In that case, the people who release the cats could be found liable. There need not be an intent to harass. Negligent conduct is sufficient to trigger this liability.

Implications for TTVAR programs. What are the implications for TTVAR programs? First, local and state governments considering legislation to legalize these programs or authorizing county animal control programs to use such programs should recognize that TTVAR programs may violate federal law. Last year, Alachua County, Florida considered it an ordinance to make it legal to feed stray cats if the cats were spayed or neutered and the feeders registered with the county. The Alachua County Audubon Society and others succeeded in defeating this ordinance. Second, TTVAR program managers and participants should understand that it is always possible that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Law Enforcement Division will turn its attention to TTVAR programs.

Resources. The American Bird Conservancy established and runs a dynamic campaign called Cats Indoors <<http://www.abcbirds.org/catsindoors.htm>>. It has all the information – scientific and legal – needed to address the feral and free-ranging pet cat problem.

PIF Prioritization Process Papers Published

Two important peer-reviewed papers on the PIF Prioritization Process have recently been published in the same issue of *The Auk*. These are important reading materials for all interested:

Carter, Michael F., William C. Hunter, David N. Pashley, and Kenneth V. Rosenberg. 2000. Setting Conservation Priorities for Landbirds in the United States: The Partners in Flight Approach. *Auk* 117(2):541-548.

Bessinger, Steven R., J. Michael Reed, Joseph M. Wunderle, Jr., Scott K. Robinson, and Deborah M. Finch. 2000. Report of the AOU Conservation Committee on the Partners in Flight Species Prioritization Plan. *Auk* 117(2):549-561.

Texans Author Several of the Species Accounts for the Birds of North America Project

*By Cliff Shackelford, Nongame Ornithologist and State Coordinator of
Texas Partners in Flight, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Austin
<clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us>*

*The Birds of North America (BNA) series is a joint project of the
American Ornithologists' Union, Cornell Laboratory of
Ornithology, and the Academy of Natural Sciences. This series
provides comprehensive, authoritative summaries of current
knowledge of the breeding birds of North America (north of, but
not including, Mexico). It was basically initiated to update the
Arthur Cleveland Bent series from decades ago. For more
information on the BNA project, please see
<www.birdsofna.org>.*

As of this writing, 26 Texans have authored 29 species accounts. When the series is completed in the next couple of years, a total of 40 species accounts will be authored by 33 Texans; 15% of which are employees of Texas Parks and Wildlife. To be included in this list, the author had to be

residing in Texas when the species account was published, because in many cases authors have moved out of or into Texas since the publication date of a given species account. Anne-Marie Hinds of the BNA Staff graciously supplied the following list of accounts in alphabetical order by author.

PUBLISHED

AUTHOR	SPECIES	PUBLICATION NUMBER
Brown, Raymond	Swainson's Warbler	126
	*Red-bellied Woodpecker	500
Brush, Tim	Olive Sparrow	325
	Couch's Kingbird	437
Chavez-Ramirez, Felipe ¹	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	388
Conner, Richard	*Red-bellied Woodpecker	500
Dickson, James ¹	*Swainson's Warbler	126
DuBow, Paul ¹	Northern Shoveler	217
Eitnienar, Jack	White-collared Seedeater	278
	Masked Duck	393

Texans Author Several of the Species Accounts for the Birds of North America Project (cont'd)

AUTHOR	SPECIES	PUBLICATION NUMBER
Gass, Leila ¹	*Golden-cheeked Warbler	420
Gehlbach, Frederick	Eastern Screech-Owl	165
	*Elf Owl	413
	*Whiskered Screech-Owl	507
Gehlbach, Nancy	*Whiskered Screech-Owl	507
Hogan, Kelly ¹	*Red-crowned Parrot	292
Keddy-Hector, Dean	Aplomado Falcon	549
Kopachena, Jeff	*White-throated Sparrow	128
Ladd, Clifton	*Golden-cheeked Warbler	420
Maxwell, Terry	*Golden-fronted Woodpecker	373
Moldenhauer, Ralph ¹	Northern Parula	215
	*Tropical Parula	293
Moulton, Daniel	Laysan Duck	242
Peterson, Markus	Plain Chachalaca	550
Proudfoot, Glenn	*Cactus Wren	558
	Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	498
Robinson, Julie	Black-necked Stilt	449
	American Avocet	275
Shackelford, Clifford	*Red-bellied Woodpecker	500
Sherry, Dawn	*Cactus Wren	558
Tacha, Thomas ²	Sandhill Crane	031
Telfair, Raymond	Cattle Egret	113
	Neotropic Cormorant	137
Wauer, Roland	*Colima Warbler	383
Whiting, R. Montague	*American Woodcock	100

¹ = has moved from Texas since account was published

² = deceased

* = co-author; only Texas authors included here

Texans Author Several of the Species Accounts for the Birds of North America Project (cont'd)

IN - P R E P A C C O U N T S

AUTHOR	SPECIES
Brush, Tim	Hook-billed Kite *Audubon's Oriole
Eitniear, Jack	Red-billed Pigeon
Farquhar, Craig	*Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
Hejl, Sallie	Winter Wren Brown Creeper
James, J. Dale	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Johnson, William	*Blue-winged Teal
Perrigo, Glenn	Brown Jay
Small, Michael	White-winged Dove
Woodin, Marc	Redhead

* = co-author; only Texas authors included here
Note: authors for *in-prep* accounts are subject to change

LA TANGARA

Would you like to join LA TANGARA, an electronic and quarterly newsletter of the International Working Group of Partners in Flight?

If so, please contact the editor, Jose Manuel Zolotoff Pallais, by e-mail at <zolotoff@ibw.com.ni>.

Designating a Bird Sanctuary Site

Are you interested in designating your community as a bird sanctuary?

If so, please checkout the following U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Program found on this Web site:
<<http://birds.fws.gov/urbantreaty.html>>.

This program does not apply to personal property.

Flyway



Texas Partners in Flight
Texas Parks and Wildlife
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744



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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Texas Partners In Flight Flyway



NEWSLETTER



Spring 2000 – Spring 2001 Volume 8

Newsletter Editor – Clifford E. Shackelford <clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us>