

from late August to early November and a much smaller one in May and June. The records are more evenly split between spring and fall in the south central and southeast U.S. than in the north central and north-east (Lockwood 1999).

There are 45 records of Fork-tailed Flycatchers in North America between April and June (Table 1). Of these, just nine are from inland sites, ranging in dates from 3-14 May 1992 (Grand Marais, Minnesota) to 24 June 1988 (Douglas Co., Wisconsin). Two of the records are from Texas, two from Eastern locations (Bic, Quebec and Ferrisburg, Vermont), and the remaining five records are from northcentral North America, as far north as Cedoux, Saskatchewan, and Drumheller, Alberta. Looking at a map, spring overshoots could show up anywhere in the eastern United States, but are most likely along the Gulf and East Coasts where they would first encounter land after leaving the South American continent.

Of the spring records, there are six in late April, all from the Gulf Coast and Florida Keys, with the records increasing in frequency in May and June. This timing corresponds with the typical arrival dates of northbound migrants in Suriname, where (except for a couple anomalous earlier records) the first birds appeared in April with numbers increasing in May and June (Haverschmidt 1954).

Twenty-nine of the forty-four spring records were seen for only one day, including the Paul Douglas bird, much to the frustration of birders who couldn't make it to the site on 16 May. Fortunately it showed well for the entire day, until it was practically too dark to see (J. Weckstein, pers. com.). Illinois' two other spring first state record kingbirds, Gray and Tropical/Couch's, were also one day wonders (Kassebaum 1999a, 1999b).

There are twenty-four records of Fork-tailed Flycatchers away from East Coast and Gulf Coast states (Figure 2), compared with over one hundred coastal records. Assuming that fall Fork-tailed Flycatchers in North America are mirror-image migrants flying north and slightly west instead of south and slightly east, looking at a map it becomes clear why the most records occur in the northeast. It is a comparable distance (and trajectory) from their nonbreeding grounds in northern South America to their breeding grounds to the south as it is to the northeastern United States and maritime Canada.

Given the number of records on the Gulf Coast and the number of Midwest records, it is surprising that there is only one inland record in the southern United States away from Texas, a January record in Arkansas. There are four records in the interior west, two each in spring and fall. The two west coast individuals were recorded in September and stayed for several days.

There are many more records from the Midwest. Not surprisingly, most are from Ontario (six records), both the largest state/province in the region and the one extending farthest east. Wisconsin has four records, Michigan and Minnesota each have two, while Illinois and Kentucky have one each. Eventually other states in the region will surely add the species to their respective states' list as well. Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois all have single spring records.

The propensity for Fork-tailed Flycatchers to show up not only in the Midwest but in far-flung locations across the continent led a panel of experts to conclude that it would be the next species to be added to Illinois' state list (Walters and Engel 2000). While a number of other species were added first, they were correct in that it was not too long before this lovely tropical Tyrannid was added.

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