

land, OK Apr. 30 (VB), with two in *Oklahoma* May 11 (NG). Lazuli Buntings that crept east of most were found *Mayer*, OK Apr. 26–30 (LR), *Oklahoma* May 7 (RJ), *Saline*, KS May 10 (BT), *Cowley*, KS May 14 (MT), and *Washington*, OK May 9 (LSt); a male and female were noted at the latter May 10–23 (P&IH). About 17 Lazuli Buntings were discovered on territory in the Wichita Mts., *Comanche*, OK by the end of May (JAG). A Painted Bunting in *Rush*, KS May 8 (SS) was the first for this fringe county of its range.

Rufous-sided Towhees were noted to May 20 in *Wagoner*, OK (DV, JM). A Green-tailed Towhee May 13 in *Scott*, KS (T&SS) was the easternmost reported for the season. A Canyon Towhee May 13 in *Morton*, KS (L&RS) was beyond the fringe of the species' normal range.

A Sharp-tailed Sparrow May 20 in *Jefferson*, KS (DLS) added to a scarce set of spring observations for this species. Among tardy *emberizid* sparrows were an Am. Tree Sparrow May 4 in *Dawes*, NE (RCR), and May 6 at Crescent Lake (MF); a Vesper Sparrow May 13 in *Cleveland*, OK (NK); a LeConte's Sparrow May 20 in *Dixon*, NE (JJo); a Harris Sparrow singing May 19 in *Comanche*, OK (JAG); White-crowned and Harris' sparrows May 28 at *Dawes* (NR, IR, JJJ); and a Dark-eyed Junco May 21 at *Sioux*, NE (SL). Also tardy was a Lapland Longspur Apr. 24 at *Adams*, NE (SJD). Four McCown's Longspurs Mar. 27 in *Pawnee*, KS (PJ) were the only recent reports for the central strip of the Region.

An early Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a feeder in *Oklahoma* Mar. 10 (JGN). Lesser Goldfinches were noted in several areas, including *Muskogee*, OK May 19–22 (JH). Two Red Crossbills Apr. 30–May 13 in *Sedgwick*, KS (JB) provided the only observations outside the Sandhills of n.w. Nebraska.

### Corrigendum

A Chestnut-collared Longspur reported from Norton, KS Sept. 5, 1994 by Scott Seltman was incorrectly assigned to Morton, KS (*NASFN* 48:67).

**Cited observers (area editors boldfaced):** KANSAS: Richard Bean, Joseph Brewer, Harlow & David Butcher, Ted Cable, Steve Crawford, Joyce Davis, Cliff Ericson, Bob Evans, Peggy Hockett, **Pete Janzen**, Rita Kenney, Dan LaShelle, Harold McFadden, Mick McHugh, **Lloyd Moore**, Greg Nichols, John Northrup (JNo), Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, John Rakestraw, Leonard & Betty Rich, Richard Rucker, John Schukman, David Seibel (DSe), Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman,

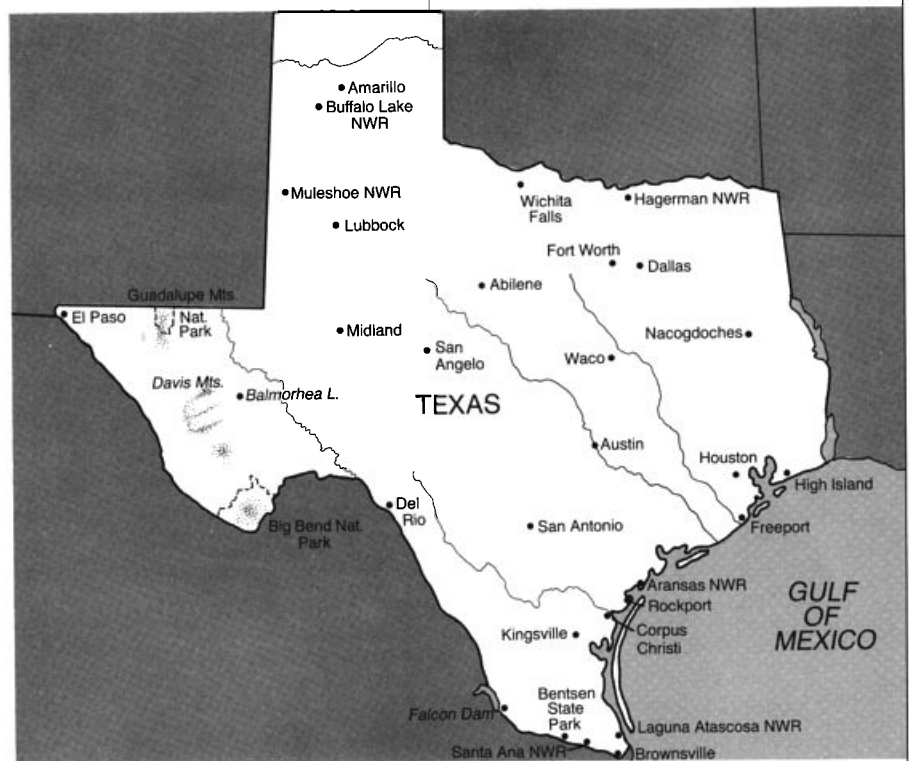
Tom & Sara Shane, Lawrence & Ruth Smith, Bill Trell, Max Thompson, Beverly Van Dyke, Phil Wedge, David Williams, Larry Winghold, Judy Young, Michael Zeitz. NEBRASKA: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Laurence Falk, Kevin DeGarmo, Marlin French, Joe Gubanyi, Thomas Hoffman, Helen Hughson, Bill F. Huser, Jan Johnson (JJo), Gerald Jorgensen, Joel Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, R. Kerbes (RKe), Lucy Koenig, Tom Klubertanz, Sandy Lemmon, Larry K. Malone, Jim Mountjoy (JMo), Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Inez Ratzlaff, Neal Ratzlaff, Don Roberson, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, Loni Schlothauer, W. Ross Silcock, Gertrude Wood. OKLAHOMA: Jim W. Arterburn, Bill Beall, Vicki Byre, Bill Carrell, Ella Delap, Melinda Droege, Dave Evans, Neal Garrison, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Jim Harman, Vanessa & John Harris, Berlin Heck, Paul & Iris Hefty, Vera Jennings, Rick Jones, Dan King, Nathan Kuhnert, **Jo Loyd**, **Louis McGee**, **Jeri McMahan**, K. Meisenzahl, Terry Mitchell, Coy Montgomery, J. Munn (J.Mu), Patti Muzny, **John G. Newell**, James Norman, Mitchell Oliphant, James Ownby, Dan L. Reinking, Leann Rogers, Aline Romero, M. Rugg, Pat Seibert, Lloyd Stevens (LSt), Jim Thayer, Jack D. Tyler, Don Varner, Nadine Varner, Ernie Wilson, E&B Womack, Jeff Webster (JWe), Jim Woodard.

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# Texas Region

## GREG W. LASLEY, CHUCK SEXTON, MARK LOCKWOOD, AND WILLIE SEKULA

No one seemed totally disappointed with the spring migration, despite an incredible diversity of conditions across this vast state. Heavy rains caused typical fallouts in the eastern half, while strong wind shifts in the drought-ridden west were thought to contribute to migrant pileups. Temperatures gyrated wildly through March and April. A series of early fronts perked observers' interest in late March and early April, primarily along the coast. Action was moving towards a peak with a good grounding April 23–24. With a strong front bruising its way across the state, touching off very serious thunderstorms in central and north Texas, May 3–5 produced rave reviews from migration observers literally statewide. Records of significant numbers of migrants and rarities on those dates outnumbered all other dates combined (*see Table 1*). May 8–9 produced another good avian display, at least in central Texas. Mid-May was brutal everywhere, not



**Table 1. Unusual warblers in North and West Texas, spring 1995**

Species	Dates	Location	Observer
Blue-winged	Apr. 22	Ft. Davis	KB, PAb
Golden-winged	Apr. 14-15	Big Bend	m.ob.
Tennessee	Apr. 25	Big Bend	RW
Chestnut-sided	May 19	El Paso	BZ
Cape May	Apr. 28-May 1	Ft. Davis	J&RM, ph. KB
Black-throated Blue	May 13	Big Bend	CEd
Hermit	May 4	Lubbock	PK
Palm	May 13	Big Bend	MF
Blackpoll	May 3	Big Bend	RW
Prothonotary	Apr. 19-23	Big Bend	DK, SBo
Prothonotary	May 17	Alpine	WC
Worm-eating (3)	Apr. 22-May 9	Big Bend	m.ob.
Worm-eating	May 9	Midland	SSt, m.ob.
Hooded	May 3	Big Bend	RW
Hooded	May 4	El Paso	LJ
Canada	May 3	Big Bend	RW

just in south Texas where Laredo reached 114° E, May 13; on the same date, the International Migratory Bird Count was a disappointment in most areas of Texas. Heavy rains in the Panhandle and central Texas May 29-31 brought a final punctuation mark of migrants; Seyffert remarked that, at his more northerly latitude, birders are getting used to "missing" the main migration earlier in May only to be rewarded for their patience when they get out in the last week of the month.

Jim Morgan shared a yardstick that he and Ted Eubanks have used to gauge fallouts on the Upper Texas Coast in the past: If the sum total of all migrant individuals in a given event numbers at least 1000, it's a "fall-out." Morgan failed to record such an event this season, but John Arvin attested that the May 4 "clear weather" grounding in Smith Woods at High Island met the mark: Arvin tallied nearly 2000 individuals of the most numerous score of migrant species. Nonetheless, all reporters agree that such events are getting fewer and farther between.

The drought conditions of northern Mexico, which we described as providing only a "wrinkle" on patterns of occurrence in Texas last winter, now appear to be a driving force behind more widespread avian phenomena. Rare neotropical species are not unexpected in Texas; more often than not, their visits to Texas are fleeting. This season, however, a number of these southern immigrants simply took up residence. We provide details below of a Rufous-capped Warbler and Short-tailed Hawk that settled into the southern Hill Country. A Green Violet-eared Hummingbird hung around the Coastal Bend for several weeks, and others will be reported in the summer column. Three Broad-billed

Hummingbirds in one season is a remarkable number. One of these had first shown up two winters ago, presumably went "home" somewhere to the south, then returned in Fall 1994 and now simply won't leave. As for the Great Kiskadee reported in *Tarrant*, it would be remarkable if this individual simply moved up from the Lower Rio Grande Valley within Texas, considering the abundance of the species in drought-stricken northern Mexico. We speculate that all of these unprecedented events are too many to be coincidental.

**Abbreviations:** Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains N.P.*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); L.S.U. (*Louisiana State University*); S.N.A. (*State Natural Area*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee/Texas Ornithological Society*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*); V.C.-D.B. (*Village Creek Drying Basin, Fort Worth*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Balmorhea, Big Bend, Brazos Bend, Buffalo Lake, Hagerman, Laguna Atascosa, Lost Maples, Packery Channel, and Santa Ana.

#### Loons to Flamingo

Two wintering Pacific Loons at L. Balmorhea, *Reeves*, remained until late April (*fide* KB). The latest Horned Grebes included one in *Calhoun* May 13 (PH & JT) and another at Red Bluff Res., *Loving*, May 29 (KB, TG). A Clark's Grebe was found flailing on the railroad tracks in Valentine, *Jeff Davis*, Apr. 25 (*fide* KB, \* L.S.U.). A Clark's Grebe was in a flock of 12 Westerns in San Angelo Mar. 23-24 (TMa, m.ob.); this is believed to be only the 3rd record of Clark's in Texas e. of the Pecos R. The latest

date reported for the Blue-footed Booby at L. Bastrop was Apr. 12. An amazing 11,000 Am. White Pelicans streamed over Austin Apr. 7 (B&JR). American White Pelicans were also unusually numerous in w. Texas, the largest group reported was 117 at McNary Mar. 27 (BZ); a single bird at Big Bend Mar. 20 (*fide* MF) was very notable. We had 2 inland reports of Brown Pelican; one at San Antonio in May (WS) was almost routine, however Haynie was surprised by one at L. Proctor May 11 (first *Comanche* record). Out-of-place Neotropical Cormorants included one in Lubbock Apr. 22 (JC) and another May 9 at Sam Rayburn Res., *Walker* (CSh, RSch). American Bitterns, seldom observed in the Panhandle, were seen at Amarillo Mar. 4 & 25 (EK). Other individuals were in *Lee* Apr. 13 and May 12 (HB). Unusual heron/egret sightings included a Little Blue in Midland Apr. 13-15 (DKe, m.ob.), a Tricolored at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village Apr. 2 (VN), and another Tricolored in Temple Apr. 24-May 10 (RP). Unusual White Ibis reports included one at Fort Worth Apr. 30 (CH) and another at L. Balmorhea Apr. 22 (KB, GP). There were at least 11 Glossy Ibises reported at 6 localities, primarily along the coast between Mar 13-May 29; most notable were two at Fort Worth May 4 (†MR). A 2nd Concho Valley record for Roseate Spoonbill was provided by a single bird at Lake O.C. Fisher, *Tom Green*, May 16 (AK). Ten Wood Storks were reported at various coastal localities and inland to *Lee* in April and May; the sp. is most unusual in the spring. The Laguna Atascosa Greater Flamingo remained through April (m.ob.), while another flamingo sp. was reported near Tivoli Apr. 20 (HM). The origin of these birds is controversial.

#### Waterfowl

A 2nd county record was provided by a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in *Angelina* May 19 (NB). Two Tundra Swans that overwintered at L. Marvin, *Hemphill*, lingered until Mar. 14 (PA, RSc). A Greater White-fronted Goose dropped in on El Paso May 6 (TB, DE), a late date for this rare Trans-Pecos species. The Brant in w. *Harris* reported last season lingered until Mar. 5. We got hints that there may have been more ducks lingering late into the season than usual. Notable among these were 140 Gadwalls and about 100 Am. Wigeons in the Rockport area May 19 (CC), a Canvasback in Temple May 9 (RP), and Greater Scaups in *Calhoun* May 13 and in *Nueces* May 19. A Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal hybrid was at Amarillo, *Randall*, April 16 (KS). The Amarillo Eur. Wigeon from last period remained through Mar. 11 (EK). Unusual for spring, single Oldsquaws were at Matagorda

L., Mar. 18 (PH), Rockport Mar. 23 (CC), and Aransas Bay Apr. 3 (JA). A Black Scoter, rare anywhere in Texas, was at San Antonio's Mitchell L., Apr. 19 (TG), while single White-winged Scoters were reported in Calhoun Mar. 8 (JDa) and at Midland (2nd county record) Apr. 2 (RMS). Thirty Surf Scoters were at Sea Rim Apr. 9 while  $\leq$  three Surf Scoters were at Bolivar Flats Apr. 20–23 (BB, PL). Another Surf Scoter at McNary Apr. 16 (LJ) was the first for *Hudspeth*. Up to three Masked Ducks remained at Brazos Bend through mid-May, while others were reported with no documentation in *Hidalgo* and *Calhoun*.

### Raptors

An Osprey at Greenbelt-L., *Doneley*, May 26 was the latest by far for the n. Panhandle (EK, KS, RSc). Hook-billed Kites were commonly reported during April in the L.R.G.V. in their usual spots. Fairly typical was about seven Swallow-tailed Kites reported along the coastal prairies during the period. Unexpected was a single Am. Swallow-tailed Kite at Buda, *Hays*, Apr. 5 (OC). A White-tailed Kite near Albany provided *Shackelford* with its first county record May 28 (KN), while others at L. Balmorhea May 2 (JWi, WD) and at Big Bend May 9 (CED) provided very rare Trans-Pecos records. Observers seemed to miss any large migrant concentrations of hawks this season or at least such reports didn't reach us; the now-expected reports of thousands of Mississippi Kites and Broad-winged Hawks failed to materialize. About 125 Mississippi Kites over Salineño May 6 (BB) and 70 more over Austin May 7 (GL, VE) were quite late. Northern Goshawk is an often reported but seldom documented visitor to Texas; this season individuals were well described from *Dallas* (KN) and *Delta* (MWh, *et al.*), both Mar. 18 († to T.B.R.C.). Another well-described rare raptor was a Com. Black-Hawk at Lost Maples, *Bandera*, Apr. 29 (DS). Harris' Hawks continued to be reported in above-average numbers on the central and upper coasts.

Prior to this season there were but 2 accepted **Short-tailed Hawk** records for Texas; now there are 2 more. A light-morph adult was found at Lost Maples May 23–24 (†BA, DB, DS, KH). It remained into the summer and was later seen by scores of observers but could be very hard to find at times. This was the first Texas record away from the Rio Grande. As if to add icing on the Short-tailed Hawk cake, Wheeler photographed a juv. dark-morph bird May 30 at Santa Ana; unfortunately the latter bird was never seen again.

A Prairie Falcon in Grand Prairie, *Dallas*, Apr. 2 (KN) and another in *Willacy* Mar. 13

(VE) were rare local finds, while another at Palo Duro Canyon May 21 (KS) led to speculation of possible local breeding.

### Rails to Shorebirds

Two amazing discoveries were of a Yellow Rail Apr. 23 and a Black Rail Apr. 28 at the Grand Saline Marsh, Van Zandt (TPo), both providing first n.e. Texas records. Elsewhere, the Black Rails on S. Padre I. reported last season remained through at least May 19 (BM). Black Rails were seen and/or heard on at least 10 occasions during the season in *San Patricio*, *Calhoun*, and *Matagorda* (m.ob.). King Rail records of note included two in *Randall* Mar. 23 (EK, RSc) and three in *Tarrant* Apr. 2–May 27 (JWS, EW). Stehn was happy to report no losses among the 133 Whooping Cranes that wintered at Aransas. Two members of the flock looked like they were going to spend the summer (TS). An unusual number of Whooper reports away from the coast were received. Six Whoopers in *Carson* Mar. 21 (GR) and again at L. Meredith Mar. 23 (WPh *et al.*) were exciting finds. Also, ten Whoopers were seen over Lubbock Apr. 5 (GW). A Black-bellied Plover at San Angelo May 6 (M&GC) was a rare sight for the Concho Valley. American Golden-Plovers were reported in above-average numbers in n.c. Texas, especially in *Delta* where the season count exceeded 500 individuals (MWh). A rather late Am. Golden-Plover was at Temple May 31 (RP). A Piping Plover was at Imperial Res., *Pecos*, Apr. 21–22, providing a

very rare record for that area (BJP). A Snowy Plover at Grand Saline Marsh Apr. 22 (TPo) was apparently only the 3rd for n.e. Texas. Rarely observed in n.e. Texas, two Mt. Plovers Mar. 11 in *Delta* and two more there Apr. 28 were a big surprise (MWh). Two Mt. Plovers in *Jackson* Apr. 14 (BF) were at a more expected location, but still a good find. Other Mt. Plovers were seen in the Corpus Christi and Kingsville area from late March–early May (*vide* PP). A very early Solitary Sandpiper for the Panhandle was at Palo Duro Canyon Apr. 8 (PT). An impressive flock of 36 Willets was at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso*, Apr. 2 (BZ). There was a conspicuous movement of Whimbrels in w. Texas, where they are rare. The most significant was a single bird at El Paso May 22 (BZ); others included two Apr. 27 and one May 6 (BJP) at Imperial Res., single birds at San Angelo May 2 & 9 (TM, G&MCr) and groups of  $\leq$ 12 in the Abilene area (LB). Forty-six Long-billed Curlews in *DeWitt* Mar. 4 (DMu) were noteworthy. Two dozen Hudsonian Godwits at Hagerman Apr. 13 represented a substantial inland concentration (KH *et al.*); a single Hudsonian at San Angelo Apr. 29 was a rare find (TM). There was a mini-flood (for Texas) of **Surfbirds** this season on the coast. A single bird was discovered Apr. 10 at Fulton, *Aransas* (RL) and was joined by a 2nd bird Apr. 13–14 (ph., †ME, A&MC, m.ob.). Farther up the coast, a single Surf-bird stopped off at Anahuac Apr. 18–21 (ph., †DD, PL, m.ob.). Pending formal acceptance of these records and that of last



**Surfbird at Fulton, Texas, April 13, 1995. One of three reported in the state this season. Photograph/Mel and Arlie Cooksey.**

year, the sp. will have 7 documented occurrences in Texas. A Red Knot Apr. 28 in Grand Saline Marsh (TPo) was a first for n.e. Texas, while two more in Abilene (no dates) were unexpected (LB). A Sanderling at Imperial Res., May 24 (BJP) was interesting. The Rissers apparently added a new sp. to the Big Bend checklist with their observation of a Semipalmated Sandpiper Apr. 23 at Cottonwood Campground. Two White-rumped Sandpipers were in *Doneley* May 26 (EK, RSc, KS). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper in *Harrison* Apr. 4–6 provided the earliest record ever for n. Texas (MWh). The highlight for shorebird migration in n. Texas was the area's first documented Ruff, at V.C.D.B., Apr. 29–30 (ph., †MR, m.ob.). Also rare in n. Texas, especially in spring, were five Short-billed Dowitchers in *Dallas* Apr. 15 (KN), and one in *Tarrant* Apr. 22 (RR). Many observers in the e. half of the state remarked on the increased abundance of Wilson's Phalaropes. Two Red-necked Phalaropes were seen: Apr. 16 at Grand Saline Marsh (TPo; first for n.e. Texas) and McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, May 6 (TBa, DE). An Am. Woodcock was in *Lubbock* Mar. 29 (JC).

### Gulls to Terns

Spring Laughing Gulls inland in Texas are extraordinary. This season we had seven at Cooper L., *Delta*, Apr. 22 (MWh, KSa), a single bird at L. Arrowhead, *Clay*, May 7 (DMc, JMc, TMc), and two at El Paso May 26 (BZ). A massive movement of Franklin's Gulls (>10,000) moved N over S. Padre I., Apr. 23–27 (BM, GL, m.ob.). A very late Bonaparte's Gull was at Ft. Bliss May 4 (BZ). The last date on the San Antonio Mew Gull reported last season was Mar. 12 (WS), while a different individual made a one-day appearance at Austin Mar. 18 (B&JR). Two California Gulls from the winter remained in Austin until Mar. 8 (BF). Other California Gulls were reported in Ft. Worth Apr. 1 (†MR) and Rockport Mar. 23 (CC). The first Austin record of Lesser Black-backed Gull was provided by a first-winter bird Mar. 4–15 (ph., †BF, WS). There were six Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported along the coast in March and April (m.ob.). An extraordinary find was an ad. **Western Gull**, video-taped and photographed at Boca Chica, *Cameron*, Apr. 6 (†B&JR). This represented the 2nd documented Texas record and appears to be *L. o. wymani*. We had 2 reports of Glaucous Gulls: Matagorda I., Mar. 15 (BO) and at Sea Rim Apr. 15 (†CE). The first spring record of Sabine's Gull occurred May 6 at McNary when Dunn and m.ob. watched one foraging over the reservoir (ph., DS). Inland Royal Terns are always surprising; one was at San Antonio's Calaveras L., May 11+ (WS). The Least Tern migration

was termed the best in many years at Hagerman (KH). Seven Least Terns were found at Imperial Res., May 5–19 (BJP). Another Least Tern was at Greenbelt L., May 26 (EK, RSc, KS).

### Doves to Swifts

Up to 40 Band-tailed Pigeons fed on mulberries in Ft. Davis through May (KB). The introduced Eur. Collared-Dove is known to be spreading W from Florida's booming populations, so perhaps it's not surprising that at least one was video-taped at Texarkana Mar. 15+ (†SCa, *fide* CMI) and another was photographed at High I., Apr. 15 (WEH). This sp., not yet accepted on the state list, is also known to be held in captivity in some areas, so we are not yet certain of its "wild" status in Texas. The White-winged Dove expansion continues, as evidenced by one in Amarillo Apr. 25 (KS), one in Greenville, *Hunt*, Apr. 27–28 (JN), and others in *Wichita* May 23 (DMc). The sp. is said to be common now in the Concho Valley (DT) and they continue to increase in *Johnson* (CE). A Com. Ground-Dove was in Plano May 7 (JB), while two Inca Doves visited L. Arrowhead, *Clay*, Apr. 30 (DMc, TMc). A White-tipped Dove at Del Rio Apr. 13 (SS) was unexpected. A Flammulated Owl was in Ft. Davis Apr. 22–23 (PAb, ph., KB). The San Antonio Long-eared Owls hung around until Mar. 18 (WS), while Midland had one Apr. 28–29 (m.ob.), the first there since 1988. A very unexpected find was another Long-eared dead on the beach on Mustang I., *Nueces*, Apr. 7 (TA). A strange *Chordeiles* nighthawk was discovered

in W. Lake Hills, *Travis*, May 30 (†BWhi, ph.). It had a weird voice unlike any known vocalizations of Common or Lesser. There was speculation that it could be an odd-sounding Antillean or a Common x Lesser hybrid; either would be quite unprecedented. Stay tuned for further details on this bird. A Com. Poorwill on N. Padre I., *Nueces*, Apr. 12 (A&MC) was unexpected on a barrier island. A Pauraque was calling in *Bastrop* Apr. 13–15 (BF), a very unusual record for the Austin area. *Chaetura* swifts were seen well away from urban areas in the Trans-Pecos, with birds Mar. 10 (TG) and May 31 (HH) in Big Bend, and another May 4 over the Rio Grande in *Hudspeth* (CJc). The specific identification of these birds remains uncertain; Chimney Swift is regular in this area only in urban areas and Vaux's remains undocumented for the state.

### Hummingbirds to Woodpeckers

A ♂ Green Violet-eared, about the 16th record for the state, was one of the stellar vagrants on the central coast May 6–9 at Corpus Christi (†GS, m.ob.); it was seen sporadically later in the month (*fide* GS). We will report further details on this bird in the summer column. The Broad-billed Hummingbird in *Llano* remained there through the period. Elsewhere, Broad-billeds were well-documented in Cranfills Gap, *Bosque*, Mar. 21–Apr. 2 (RC, C&RC, ph., †CE, JMu) and at Mertzson, *Irion*, Apr. 20–28 (TT, †DT). Both these provided first area records. A Lucifer Hummingbird, perhaps the first local spring record, was in the Davis Mts., May 1–8 (GP). There were a handful



**Apparent adult Western Gull at Boca Chica, Texas, April 6, 1995. Texas has only one previous record. Photograph/John and Barbara Ribble.**

of late Broad-tailed Hummingbird records on the coast and in c. Texas; the latest one stayed in San Marcos until May 7 (DHen). Up to four Ringed Kingfishers were apparently in residence n.w. of Uvalde on the Nueces R., Apr. 20+ (m.ob.); another pair was seen flying overland at Hill Country S.N.A., *Bandera*, Apr. 30 (SV). There was a strange late-May surge of Acorn Woodpeckers in El Paso, with three seen May 18–30 (BZ). There were a scattering of Red-bellied Woodpeckers just w. of their regular range, with reports at Buffalo L., Palo Duro Res., Lubbock, and San Antonio (m.ob.).

### Flycatchers to Swallows

A N. Beardless-Tyrannulet in *Goliad* May 27 was far n. of its expected range (first county record; RW). Late Least Flycatchers were noted in El Paso May 24 (BZ) and Buffalo L., May 30 (KS). A late Willow Flycatcher was also seen by Seyffert at Buffalo L., May 30. A **Dusky-capped Flycatcher**, seldom well documented in Texas, was heard and photographed at Government Spring, Big Bend, May 8 (†CB). An out-of-range Great Crested Flycatcher was in Midland May 5 (D&JMe) and another at Palo Duro Canyon set up a territory for the 3rd year in a row (KS *et al.*). Unexpected on the Edwards Plateau was a Brown-crested Flycatcher at Comfort May 13 (SWie). Far n. of its expected range, a Great Kiskadee in *Tarrant* surprised observers May 20 (MaP, LG) providing the 2nd record for n.c. Texas. At least four of the previously reported pairs of Tropical Kingbirds remained in *Cameron* through the period (BM *et al.*). Eleven days of cold weather and overcast skies in late March and early April was theorized to be the cause of a massive die-off of swallows and martins in *Cameron*, *Hidalgo*, and *Willacy*; a drive along one road in Arroyo City yielded >600 dead *Hirundinids*. "There were so many that the dogs and cats were full and could not clean up the yards" (MF). A Violet-green Swallow on S. Padre I., Mar. 23 (BM) was unanticipated. Documentation of nesting Cave Swallows was provided from *Comanche* (ph., CH) and *Shackelford* (KN) for the first time.

### Jays to Shrikes

Last winter did not see an invasion of Pinyon Jays into Texas, thus a report of 17 in the Delaware Mts., *Culberson*, May 9 was surprising (JSch). An unexpected spring migrant in *Goliad* was Red-breasted Nuthatch Apr. 27 in Berclair (*vide* GS). A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher n.w. of Uvalde May 17 (JA) was slightly out of range. Gallucci found a W Bluebird along the Medina R., *Bandera*, Mar. 5. A very late Veery was at Buffalo L., May 30 (KS). Observers in n. Texas thought

the migration of Veerys and Gray-cheeked Thrushes was a bit better than usual. There were 2 documented records of Clay-colored Robin this spring: Corpus Christi Mar. 16–22 (AL, CC, †GS, A&MC) and Salineño Apr. 25–28 (†BB). Very late were single Sprague's Pipits at Study Butte, *Brewster*, May 5 (CEd) and in *DeWitt* May 11 (DMu). A flock of ± 250 Cedar Waxwings in Kingsville Mar. 5 (N&PP) wouldn't normally be notable except that the sp. had failed to make an appearance there in the winter. The few N. Shrikes which may winter in Texas normally depart the Panhandle before March; this season two birds lingered: one in *Ochiltree* Mar. 13 (S&TSh) and one at Palo Duro Canyon Mar. 15 (PT).

### Vireos to Warblers

White-eyed Vireos strayed W to *Clay* May 7 (DMc, JMc, TMc) and to *Midland* Apr. 17–21 and May 13 (*vide* FW). A Bell's Vireo nest discovered in *Midland* May 13 (D&JMe) represented the first nesting record there since 1973. Four singing Bell's Vireos in *Nacogdoches* May 7 (CSH) were a surprise. Other rare reports of Bell's Vireos were in *Collin*, *Dallas*, *Aransas*, *Refugio*, and *Palo Pinto*. Out-of-place Yellow-throated Vireos included one at Big Bend May 11 (MSP) and another in Amarillo May 14 (KS). A very early Warbling Vireo was in San Angelo Mar. 20 (G&MCR), while a nice count of 50 was tallied at S. Padre I., Apr. 24 (BM). A Black-whiskered Vireo, about the 11th Texas record, was found at Packery Channel Apr. 24 (†AC), but efforts to relocate it failed. Once again, many observers commented on locally increased numbers of certain e. warblers, especially in the w. half of the state. Species which were mentioned repeatedly by observers in several regions included Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Blackpoll, Am. Redstart, Worm-eating, and Kentucky. Table 1 assembles some of the less expected warbler records from w. and n.w. Texas. In a curious twist, Bradford received no reports of Black-throated Blue or Cape May warblers in e. Texas, although both species turned up in the Trans-Pecos; was this a reporting quirk? Single Townsend's Warblers were in San Marcos May 5 & 7 (DHen) well e. of their normal route. An unidentified *Oporornis* sp. was found Mar. 21 at High I. (DE, BN), a completely unexpected date for the genus. More evidence of western warblers moving E included about four MacGillivray's on the lower and c. coast as far n. as *Matagorda*. Painted Redstarts were reported with more frequency in their regular haunts in the Trans-Pecos; the sp. had been scarce to absent in recent years. A **Rufous-capped Warbler** decided to take up res-

idence at a private park n.w. of Uvalde, but proved to be very difficult to corral; reports ranged from April 20 (BFl) through the period (†m.ob.). Details of an ad. ♂ Olive Warbler reported at L. MacKenzie, *Briscoe*, Apr. 30 (GW) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C.; the sp. has not previously occurred outside of the Trans-Pecos in Texas.

### Tanagers to Finches

An Hepatic Tanager at Balmorhea May 2 (TJ) was at an unusual elevation, while an early Summer Tanager was at Corpus Christi Mar. 15 (CC). We received reports of seven W. Tanagers along the c. and upper coast; they were conspicuous enough to prompt some observers to term this an "invasion." Six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Mar. 28–May 20 in the Trans-Pecos were more than normal, as were a half dozen Black-headed in the e. half of the state. Another w. finch, the Lazuli Bunting, showed up in marvelous numbers in n. and n.e. Texas, with about nine birds sighted. A singing Indigo Bunting was apparently on territory in the G.M.N.P., May 29 (KB, TG). A singing Varied Bunting at Ft. Bliss May 24 (BZ) provided the first *El Paso* record. Two Chipping Sparrows at Buffalo L., May 30 (KS) were quite late. An ad. Black-throated Sparrow accompanied by a juvenile May 30 provided *Palo Pinto* with a rare nesting record (MP, JWS). Several observers sensed that Grasshopper Sparrows were particularly numerous in migration in central Texas (CS *et al.*); there was a corresponding paucity of the sp. in the Panhandle (KS). The latest LeConte's Sparrows were two at Choke Canyon, *McMullen*, Apr. 22 (WS), while a late Swamp Sparrow was in *Lee* May 21 (HB). A late migrant White-throated Sparrow at Midland May 30 (SLG) was a surprise. The Golden-crowned Sparrow at Hueco Tanks lingered until Apr. 16 (†m.ob.). Late Chestnut-collared Longspurs were detected in *Blanco* (ML) and *Burnet* (CS) Apr. 6, a month later than expected in c. Texas. Notable sightings of Bobolinks included 100 in Austin May 9 (BF), two in *Lynn* May 11 (MCA), four in *Caldwell* May 12 (JMu), and hundreds seen in n.c. Texas. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in higher than normal numbers in the e. half of the state. Freeman tracked down a singing ♂ **Shiny Cowbird** which was displaying to a female cowbird (sp.?) in Matagorda Mar. 26 († to T.B.R.C.). Despite persistent reports in previous seasons, there are but 2 accepted records of Shiny Cowbird in Texas. A new sp. for the Panhandle was a Bronzed Cowbird in Palo Duro Canyon May 20 (EK, RSc). Extralimital Hooded Oriole records came from Sabine Woods, *Jefferson*, Apr. 11–14 (JW), *Calhoun* Apr. 23 (JMe), and

in Longview May 14 (B&DMet). Brush's studies along the Rio Grande turned up as many as 24 Altamira, 14 Audubon's, and seven "Bullock's" orioles between Chapeño and Fronton in April. A very out-of-range ad. ♂ Scott's Oriole surprised McKinney Mar. 1 in Brownsville. A Lesser Goldfinch was reported in *Jefferson* Apr. 11 (JW), and another was in *Calhoun* Apr. 24 (ME). Three Evening Grosbeaks were in Lubbock Apr. 23 (CHo).

### Undocumented Rarities

Several reports of rare or very rare sp. were received with insufficient or no documentation. Omitted from this column were reports of: Great Black-backed Gull, White-eared Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Bridled Titmouse, Connecticut Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, Golden-crowned Warbler, Blue Bunting, Baird's Sparrow, and Pine Grosbeak.

**Cited observers (Subregional Editors in boldface):** Peggy Abbott (PAb), Peggy Acord, Tony Amos, Abbey Anello, Ben Archer, Tim Archer, Rich & Nanette Armstrong, Nina & Eddie Arnold, John Arvin, Peter Assman, Tom Baker, John Barrera, Bob Behrstock, Chris Benesh, Bernard Benson, Dorothy Bentley, Peter Billingham, Sally Bird, Nancy Bird, Lorrie Black, Marge Blackburn, Hazel Bluhm, Doug Booher, Sally Bourbon (SBo), **David Bradford** (East Texas: 18046 Green Hazel, Houston, TX 77084), David Brotherton (DBro), Hugh Brown, Barbara Bruns, Tim Brush, **Kelly Bryan** (Trans-Pecos: P.O. Box 786, Ft. Davis, TX 79734), Winnie Burkett, Marty Campbell, Oscar Carmona, Sharen Carter (SCa), Andra Chamberlin, Charlie Clark, Jeremy Clark, Sally Clemmons, Chris Collins, Arlie & Mel Cooksey, Robert & Kathi Creech, Gordon & Mary Creel (G&MCR), Wesley Cureton, Dave Curson, Rosy Cutler, Jean Dake (JDa), Sumner Dana, David Dauphin, Louis Debetaz, Jon Dunn, Betty Dzurenda, Charles Easley, John Economidy, Carol Edwards (CEd), Mark Elwonger, Victor Emanuel, Doug Emkalns, Mike Farmer, Bill Farnsworth, Bennie Flat, Mark Flippo, Fort Worth Audubon Society (F.W.A.S.), Tony & Phyllis Frank, Bobbye Frazier (BoF), Brush Freeman (BF), John Gee, Tony Gallucci, Linda Gayler, Elaine Giessel, Bill Graber, Sara Lou Grimes, Chantal Guggenbuhl, Ron Gutberlet, Karl Haller, James Hamous (JHa), Peggy Harding (PHa), George Harmon, W. Edward Harper, Carl Haynie, Jim Healey, David & Linda Hedges, Harold Hedges, Dick Henderson (DHe), Charlie Hobbs, Petra Hockey, Norman Holgerson, Kurt Huffman, Larry Hunt, Ruth Hunt, Mike

Husak, Joe Ideker, Charlie Jensen (CJe), Thomas L. Johnson (TLJ), Judith Jones, Larry Jordan, George Jury, Dale Kane, Andy Kasner, Lois Marie Keaton, Greg Keiran, Donna Kelly (DKe), Cathy Kerr, Richard Kinney, Phillip Kite, Ed Kutac, Greg Lasley, Debra Lee, Anne Lee, Paul Lehman, Lee Lemmons, Margie & Ray Little, Keith Lockhart, Mark Lockwood, Ruth Loper, Guy & Joan Luneau, Edward Lyons, John Maresh (JMa), Elke Matejivich, Helen Matelson, Debra McKee (DMc), June McKee (JMc), Terry McKee (TMc), Brad McKinney, Jean McQueen, John Meliotis (JMel), Ruthie Melton, Don & Joann Merritt (D&JMer), Bob & Dorothy Metzler (B&DMet), Terry Maxwell (TMa), James & Rochelle Miller, Charles Mills (CMi), Ralph Moldenhauer, Carroll Moore, Jack & Elaine Morman, John Muldrow (JMu), Ken Nanne, Val Naylor, Bob Neil, Bruce Neville, Laura Nolen, Julius Nussbaum, George Oliver, Brent Ortego, Nancy & **Paul Palmer** (South Texas: 615 S. Wanda, Kingsville, TX 78363), Marilyn Patterson (MaP), Mike Patterson, Dick Payne, George Peck, Wes Phillips (WPh), Tom Pincelli, Randy Pinkston (RPi), Barbara Jean Porthast (BJP), Truman Powell (TPo), Nick Pulcinella, Greg Rappstein, Bob Rasa, **Ross Rasmussen** (N. C. Texas: 600 S. Graves #1704, McKinney, TX 75069), Jim Ray, Martin Reid, Barbara & John Ribble, Kay Rice, Jan & Will Risser, Bob Rogers, Stephen Rottenborn, Coot Rush, Kristin Salas (KSa), Larry Sall, Mike San Miguel, Rick Schaefer (RSch), John Schmidt (JSch), Georgina Schwarz, Bob Scott, Rosemary Scott (RSc), **Willie Sekula** (Central Texas: Rt. 1, Box 130, Falls City, TX 78113), Larry & Pati Semander, Chuck Sexton, **Ken Seyffert** (Panhandle: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), Cliff Shackelford (CSH), Sara & Thomas Shane (S&TSh), Dominic Sherony, J. W. Sifford, Lynn Smith, Kim Snipes (KSn), Sylvestre Sorola, Martin Speiss (MSp), Judy Spurlock, Sara St. Claire (SSt), Tom Stehn, Darleen Stevens (DSte), Cliff Stogner (CSt), Rose Marie Stortz (RMS), Betsy Strothers, Davis Sugeno, Glenn Swartz, Delbert Tarter, Terry Tate, Verna Teague, Peggy Trosper, Twin Lakes Audubon Society (T.L.-A.S.), Linda Valdez, Al Valentine, Sybil Vosler, Ro Wauer, Ed Wetzler, Brian Wheeler, Matt White (MWh), E. G. White-Swift (EGW), Gayle Whitten, John Whittle, Bret Whitney (BWhi), Egon & Sue Wiedenfeld (E&SWie), Russell Wilke, Frances Williams, Kirby Williams, Sue Williams, Doris Wyman, Barry Zimmer.

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# Idaho/ Western Montana Region

### DAN SVINGEN

Much of spring 1995 didn't differ from the past winter, being consistently cool and wet. Although several semi-hardy species were recorded early in February, migration for other species was definitely late. Locally breeding warblers were largely absent from east-central Idaho and northwest Montana. Swainson's Thrush was specifically noted as being tardy by several observers. This species usually arrives in northern Idaho and northwestern Montana by the third week in May and is widespread by month's end. Although Swainson's Thrushes were on time near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, it was notably absent from other portions of the area. By the end of May, only a few, non-territorial Swainson's had been noted near Kalispell, Montana, and the species wasn't even recorded near St. Maries, Grangeville, or Boise, Idaho until early June.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (*American Falls Reservoir, by American Falls, ID*).

### Loons to Ducks

A Com. Loon was at Salmon, ID May 5 (LH). While still rare in e.c. Idaho, this species is becoming more regular there. Red-necked Grebes were again at Harriman S P, *Fremont*, ID (CT), one of the few places in s Idaho where they can be found.

After increasing locally since the 1980s, Double-crested Cormorants were finally confirmed as breeders near Kalispell, MT (DC). Six Double-crested were at Sandpoint, ID May 21, where the species has also been increasing in recent years (PC). Another Double-crested farther north at Kootenai N.W.R., *Boundary*, May 26 provided only the 3rd local sighting. The other two records were from 1981 (JRe).

Great Blue Herons commonly prey on mice and voles in upland fields, but the Missoula, MT bird seen capturing and swallowing whole Columbian Ground Squirrels,