

and Nov. 17–30 at *Sarpy*, NE (JS). A Com. Redpoll Nov. 9 in *Douglas*, KS (MRo), furnished an early fall record for an exceedingly rare winter visitor.

Cited observers (area editors in boldface):

KANSAS: Debarah Arnett, Kim Bostwick, Curtis Brobisky, Ted Cable, Mike Cooper, Bob Dester, Jon Dunn, JoAnne Garrett, Terrell & Nelda Giddens, Chet Gresham, Tyler Hicks, Dave Hilley (DH*i*), Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Don Kazmaier, Dan Kluza (DK*i*), Charlie Kraus, Dan LaShelle, Nancy Leo, Erin and Kathy McDowell, Jane McFarland, Mick McHugh, Roger McNeill, **Lloyd Moore**, Chuck Otte, Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival (BP*e*), Galen Pittman, Marie Plinsky, Alexis Powell, Eric Preston, Mike Rader, John Rakestraw, Mark Robbins (MRo), Chad Runco, Carolyn Schwab, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Andy Siglar, Ruth and Lawrence Smith, Joe Steiners (JS*n*), George Taylor, Max Thompson, Don Vannoy, Linda Willbanks, Fred Young, Gene Young. NEBRASKA – Jim Alt, Stella Bigsby, John Brenneman, Norma Brockmoller, Mark Brogie, George Brown, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Larry Einemann, David C. Ely, Carol Falk, Laurence Falk, Marlin French, Ruth Green, Betsy Hancock, Robin Harding, Dave Heidt, Bill F. Huser, Jan Johnson, Gerry Jorgensen, **Joel G. Jorgensen**, Alice Kenitz, Lucy Koenig, Nick Komar, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Lanny Randolph, **W. Ross Silcock**, John Sullivan. OKLAHOMA: James W. Arterburn, J. Bible (JB*i*), Bill Carrell, Lynda Fritts, Berlin Heck (BH*e*), Jack & Yvonna Hill, James C. Hoffman, Nathan Kuhnert (NK*u*), **Jo Loyd**, Larry Mays (LMa), **Louis McGee** (LMc), Brian Muzny, Pat Muzny, Mitchell Oliphant, Linda Robertson (LRo), Aline Romero, Pat Seibert, John Sterling (JSt), Jeff Webster (JWe), Anne Wilbur, Dick Wilbur, Jim Woodard.

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 21.

texas region



GREG W. LASLEY, CHUCK SEXTON, MARK LOCKWOOD, CLIFF SHACKELFORD, and WILLIE SEKULA

Heavy rains in much of east, central, and south Texas contributed to abundant surface water and wild food resources. There were a few good fallouts of passerines during the biggest downpours along the coast. The weather in the Panhandle was "unexceptional" and for the most part mild. The migration was termed "a bit dull" in much of central and west Texas, although the latter area garnered some significant rarities. Early arrival dates and late lingering migrants gained much mention statewide; we include only the more remarkable of these in the space available. Numbers of many wintering species were way down (especially westward), yet nuthatches made an incursion into the eastern part of the state. Grassland birds were seemingly sparse in the western half, but notably abundant to the east. Matt White in north Texas remarked, with some irony, that "rare loons and larids in November are now almost routine, as birders con-

tinue to scrutinize the area lakes."

Overall the reporting network was uneven this season, with some missing pieces of the picture in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and under-birded parts of east and central Texas. Two pelagic trips out of Port O'Connor August 23 and September 20, and another pelagic trip out of Port Isabel September 20, continued to round out our picture of Texas' offshore avifauna. The west Texas mountains began to get the attention they deserve in the exciting late-summer period.

The timely reporting of hawk-watching results, notably by Winnie Burkett (Smith Point) and Patty Beasley (Coastal Bend), was just thrilling this season. The Smith Point event takes place at the Candy Absher Wildlife Management Area at the edge of Galveston Bay. The Coastal Bend watch is at Hazel Bazemore County Park near Corpus Christi. As always, we are grateful to John Economidy and the Hawk Migration Association of North America for their efforts and information.

The concentration of eager observers at such events as the fall Texas Ornithological Society meeting in Greenville in early

November and at the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in mid-November were the source of many interesting records. That said, documentation of important records was notably poor in south Texas, where truly rare species are mistakenly considered to be "expected" or "routine" by visiting birders.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); S.S.W.T.P. (*South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee/Texas Ornithological Society*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection/Texas A&M University*); TxB (*TexBirds discussion list/National Audubon Society*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*); V.C.D.B. (*Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarrant Co.*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Attwater, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Choke Canyon, Hagerman, Laguna Atascosa, Lost Maples, Sabine Woods, and Santa Ana.

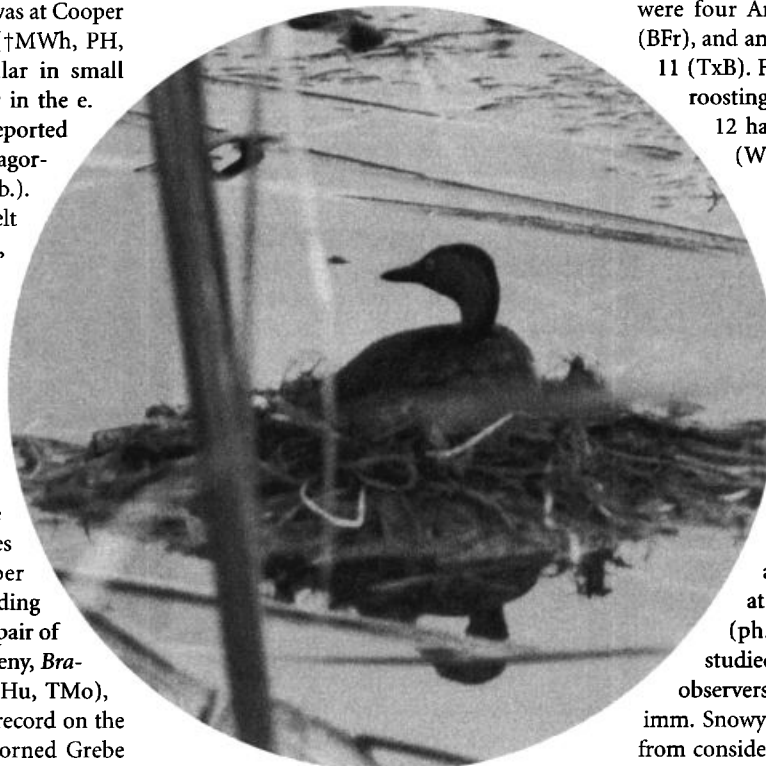
LOONS TO IBISES

Red-throated Loons have proven to be annual in occurrence in n. Texas in recent years; this season two were at Hagerman Nov. 7 (G&LSk) and another was at Cooper L., *Hopkins/Delta*, Nov. 7-8 (†MWh, PH, BG). Pacific Loons are regular in small numbers each fall and winter in the e. half of the state; they were reported this season at Cooper L., Matagorda Bay, and L. Tawakoni (m.ob.). Two Pacific Loons at Greenbelt L., *Donley*, Nov. 21-23 (†KS, RSc, LSa, D&PA) were the first reported in the Panhandle since 1979. Showing a different pattern than expected, Least Grebes were fairly sparse in the L.R.G.V. (m.ob.); however, substantial numbers were seen northward from *Kenedy* up to the Austin area. Young Least Grebes at Choke Canyon in October (G&PK, RA) confirmed breeding there, but more notable was a pair of nesting Least Grebes near Sweeny, *Brazoria*, Sept. 1 onward (ph., PHu, TMO), the first documented nesting record on the U.T.C. Unusual reports of Horned Grebe included single birds at L. Balmorhea Nov. 11-16 (KB, MAd), Aransas Bay Nov. 12 (A&MC), Ft. Hancock Nov. 13 (BZ), and Imperial Res. Nov. 28 (BJP). Imperial Res., near the Pecos R., hosted an imm. Red-

necked Grebe Oct. 31 (†BJP). Numbers of *Aechmophorus* grebes have skyrocketed in far w. Texas during the past five years; W. Grebes were sometimes found in small groups and Clark's were, at best, rare (BZ). Zimmer found 53 of these birds Nov. 18 at Tornillo, Ft. Hancock, and McNary Res., including 27 Westerns, 16 Clark's, and 10 unidentified.

The now-expected summer/fall tubenoses (Cory's Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, and Band-rumped Storm-Petrel) were encountered on 3 pelagic trips. Data collected during the last 4 years led the T.B.R.C. to remove Audubon's Shearwater and Band-rumped Storm-Petrel from the Texas Review List. A **Manx Shearwater** found dead on N. Padre I., *Kenedy*, Sept. 13 (BS, †A&MC, *T.C.W.C.) provided the 6th Texas record. The single Leach's Storm-Petrel seen off of Port O'Connor Aug. 23 (†ME, JGo, ML, PH, m.ob.) appeared to have a mostly dark rump, a plumage character not observed in Texas waters before. Five Leach's were reported by Brad McKinney Sept. 20 off Port Isabel.

Inland Brown Pelican reports included one in Austin Aug. 28 (TxB) and three at *Hudspeth* reservoirs during November (ph.,



An adult Least Grebe on a nest near Sweeny, Brazoria County, Texas, on September 7, 1997. First documentation of nesting on the Upper Texas Coast. Photograph/Tom Morris

SA Timely postings of bird sightings on the internet has greatly accelerated information exchange in the Texas birding world. The very popular TexBirds discussion list maintained by the National Audubon Society has virtually supplanted the telephone for on-line birders for rare bird alerts, along with its role as a forum for detailed discussion of bird identification and distribution, migration monitoring, banding results, and as a general bird-finding source. This season, this was very much in evidence in the form of daily reports of the hummingbird and hawk migrations. As just two examples, readers may look through the TexBirds archives available from National Audubon Society's listserver web page (<http://www.audubon.org/listserv/>) and full results of the Hazel Bazemore hawk watches, available from the Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi (<http://www.electrotex.com/aoc/>).

BZ). Eubanks reckoned that the flocks of "hundreds" of Neotropical Cormorants at Choke Canyon Oct. 24-26 were probably the largest he had ever seen. Somewhat late were four Anhingas in *Gonzales* Oct. 26 (BFr), and another reported in Austin Nov.

11 (TxB). Forty Magnificent Frigatebirds roosting at Smith Pt., *Chambers*, Oct. 12 had disappeared by the Oct. 17 (WB).

Somewhat early was an Am. Bittern at Hagerman Aug. 31 (LL), while one in *Carson* Sept. 30 (VL) provided an uncommon Panhandle report. Some notably large concentrations of Great Egrets were seen in w. Texas and the Panhandle; 30 in *Carson* Sept. 29 (TFe, RSc, PT) and 57 at Ft. Hancock Nov. 25 (BZ). A bird fitting the description of a imm. Little Egret was found at V.C.D.B., *Tarrant*, Aug. 22-24 (ph., MR et al.). The bird was studied and photographed by many observers; however, as of this writing, imm. Snowy Egret may not be eliminated from consideration. Two late Snowy Egrets were at S.S.W.T.P. Nov. 26 (BGi). A few of summer's Little Blue Herons in the Panhandle remained through August; one immature was found in *Randall* Oct. 1 (KS). Another Little Blue was at L. Balmorhea

Oct. 14 (MAd). Two Tricolored Herons at L. Balmorhea Aug. 18 (ML, GL) and another in *Midland* Aug. 24–Sept. 14 (GK) were noteworthy.

The White Ibis influx into c. Texas continued well into September; over 20 White Ibises were at Austin's Hornsby Bend Aug. 23–24 (BFr, ML), while 15 were still at College Station Sept. 13 (SD). Individual Glossy Ibises were at Austin Sept. 27–30 (BR, m.ob.) and at Corpus Christi Nov. 30 (A&MC). A Roseate Spoonbill in Midland Aug. 30 (RMS) provided a 2nd county record, while one at L. Nasworthy, San Angelo, Oct. 6–8 provided the 3rd confirmed Concho Valley record (*fide* DT). The first documented **Jabiru** in the United States since 1985 was a "one-day wonder" at Laguna Atascosa, *Cameron*, Aug. 11 († ph., JMay). Aerial searches by refuge staff over the next several days failed to relocate the bird.

WATERFOWL

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Hagerman Aug. 28 (KH, *fide* WM) provided a very rare n.c. Texas record. One ad. and four imm. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were in *Angelina* Sept. 1, possibly providing a first nesting record for the Pineywoods (DAn, LD, CMO). Two groups of Tundra

Swans were at Taylor Lakes W.M.A., *Donley*; four birds Oct. 30 and seven Nov. 21 (KS). Early Snow Geese were at Kingsville Aug. 26 (CA, *fide* NP). A trend of higher numbers of Ross's Geese (i.e., higher ratio of Ross's to Snows) in coastal and s. Texas began this Fall, and will be described in more detail in the winter season. Ross's in the Pineywoods were interesting: a single in *Harrison* (GLu, ER) and 15 more in *Gregg*, both Nov. 1 (PHa). While a few Muscovy Ducks were noted periodically at the usual *Starr* locations, of more interest were three imm. Muscovies in flight over Santa Ana Nov. 12 (GL).

Once again a large group of Wood Ducks were found in the n. Panhandle at Palo Duro L. when 30–40 were noted during November (JDe). Up to 7 Wood Ducks were in Midland in November, providing the most sightings ever in that area (*fide* FW). A Greater Scaup off S. Padre I. Nov. 12–16 (AW, BMc) was a nice find. Four fall sightings of Oldsquaw exceeded expectations: Nov. 10–25 at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso* (BZ; 3rd county record); Nov. 20 in *Kleberg* (A&MC); Nov. 22 at Texas Pt., *Jefferson* (KSt); and Nov. 22–30 at Mitchell L., San Antonio (ph., WS et al.).

Good Surf Scoter records came from Ft. Bliss Oct. 28–Nov. 5 (BJ); S. Padre I., *Came-*

ron, Nov. 12 (AW); Boca Chica, also *Cameron*, Nov. 20 (AW); and at Lake O' the Pines, *Marion*, Nov. 22 (CCo). At Aransas, a Masked Duck was discovered by Dobinson Nov. 4 and was seen through Nov. 21 (†FD et al.).

RAPTORS

The Smith Pt. and Hazel Bazemore hawk watches produced "mind-numbing" results (JE), as suggested in Table 1. Hawk watchers anywhere on the continent would be thrilled at a daily total in five figures. Get a load of this sequence at Hazel Bazemore: Sept. 26 (48,721 total raptors), Sept. 27 (169,837), Sept. 28 (167,209), and Sept. 29 (302,294). Counters at that site had 5 other dates with totals ranging from 12,127 to 30,034 raptors. We encourage online readers to check out the complete results available at the Web site of the Audubon Outdoor Nature Club of Corpus Christi, listed in the S.A.

A migrant flight of 7000 Turkey Vultures w. of Sarita, *Kenedy*, Oct. 26 was an amazing sight (CR, CSh et al.). A late Turkey Vulture was in *Randall* Oct. 30 (PN). Hook-billed Kites were much in evidence at the known locations in the L.R.G.V., including three birds seen together at Santa Ana in late November (WR). Swallow-tailed Kites were much more numerous this fall than in previous years. As many as five Swallow-taileds were seen at Smith Pt. on a number of dates, and five were tallied Aug. 24 at Hazel Bazemore. A very late Mississippi Kite was seen in *Amarillo* Sept. 30 (DA).

Details on a N. Goshawk seen near Tyler Nov. 14–21 (DHa, TPo et al.) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C. A remarkable sighting was a Com. Black-Hawk well-described over San Antonio Nov. 23 (†DE). All the regular sites for Gray Hawks in the L.R.G.V. harbored one or a few birds; most notable was an immature at the e. end of the valley at Sabal Palms Nov. 13 (JA). Small numbers (two–five) of Broad-wingeds were still moving past Smith Pt. and through the L.R.G.V. as late as Nov. 18–23 (WB, BMc). A wet rainy pattern across e. Texas and the e. edge of the Hill Country in early October apparently rerouted the bulk of south-bound Swainson's Hawks a bit to the west, as evidenced by low counts at hawk watches at Balcones Canyonlands and on the Coastal Bend (CS, JE et al.). Noticeably late Swainson's Hawks were reported at Rockport Nov. 24 (CC) and on a private ranch in *Willacy* Nov. 28 (WR).

Ten ad. White-tailed Hawks on Mustang I. Nov. 20 (CC) were a new high tally for



Good thing it's a big bird: seen at a great distance, but still photographed for confirmation, this Jabiru was seen at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, only on August 11, 1997. This huge tropical stork had been found in the United States only half a dozen times previously, with the last record in 1985. Photograph/Jody Mays

the site; elsewhere in s. Texas, numbers of imm White-taileds seemed low (m.ob.). A White-tailed at Rollover Pass, Galveston, Nov 30 was a bit out of range (*fide* DB). A Zone-tailed Hawk at Midland Sept. 13 (DK, FW) furnished a first county record. Other Zone-taileds at unusual locations included *Bastrop* Oct. 18 (BFr), and at the Brownsville landfill Nov. 14 (JA). A most intriguing report was of a dark-morph imm Rough-legged Hawk, which soared over observers at the Hazel Bazemore hawk watch Sept. 27 (JE et al.). This is a stunningly early date; debates about the identification of this bird swirled over the Internet for some weeks thereafter.

PRAIRIE-CHICKENS TO SHOREBIRDS

Despite continuing concerns about the availability of enough suitable habitat for the species, the Attwater's (Greater) Prairie-Chicken news was encouraging on at least one front: The release of captive-reared birds was in full swing (TR). A total of 56 Attwater's were scheduled to be released at their namesake Refuge and at the Texas Nature Conservancy's Galveston Bay Prairie Preserve by late September. Refinements in the release and acclimation techniques has significantly improved the chance of survival for these birds. Prior to the 1997 releases, the wild population (including previously released birds) was estimated at 58 individuals, up from 42 in 1996 (TR).

Always a good find in extreme e. Texas was a Sandhill Crane in *Rusk* Oct. 30 (PHa). The Whooping Crane story was encouraging. By November 30 there were a record 171 birds (142 adult and 29 young), with more expected (TS, *fide* PP). Intriguing was a report of two Whooping Cranes watched for 10 minutes with Sandhills near Dell City, *Hudspeth*, Oct. 20 (SM).

Several small groups of Am. Golden-Plovers in *Willacy* Nov 28 were very late (WR). Two Snowy Plovers were late at Imperial Res. Nov. 11 (KB, JKa); one remained until Nov. 28 (BJP). The only Mt. Plover reported from the Panhandle was one in *Armstrong* Aug. 29 (EK, BiMc, RSc). Forty-four Mt. Plovers were found near Granger L. Nov. 15 (BFr); 32 were relocated the following day (BFr, ML). A Whimbrel in *Midland* Aug. 23 provided the first area record in 5 years (RMS, FW). Three Hudsonian Godwits found at the same location in *Carson* Aug. 23 & 29 (EK, TFe, RSc, PT) were unprecedented. A Marbled Godwit at Midland Oct. 5 provided a rare area record (RMS). Another Marbled Godwit was at

V.C.D.B. Aug. 2–19, providing possibly the first documented record for the area (MG, MR, ph. GL). Three Red Knots near Washburn, *Armstrong*, Aug. 1 (EK, BiMc, RSc) provided a rare Panhandle record. Two breeding plumaged Red Knots at San Antonio Sept. 6–7 were also noteworthy (BD, KBa). A good concentration of 400+ Buff-breasted Sandpipers was reported Sept. 6 near Port Lavaca (PH). Red-necked Phalarope numbers were below normal in the Trans-Pecos during the period (BZ).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Inland jaegers are always unusual in Texas; a Parasitic was at Cooper L. Nov. 7–9 (†MWh, PH, E&SWie, DD et al.). Single Laughing Gulls at Midland Aug. 23–30 (RMS, FW) and at Ft. Stockton Nov. 11 (JKa, KB) were also rare inland. A first-winter Little Gull was well described at Mountain Creek L., Dallas, Nov. 28 (RG, KN); there are now more than 25 records of this species in the state. An ad. Black-headed Gull was at Cooper L. Oct. 26–Nov. 11 (†ph., MWh, m.ob.). This bird, providing the earliest ever fall date for Texas, was thought to be the same individual as the previous winter. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at 4 central and lower coast locations by the end of the season, while a first-winter Glaucous at L. Tawakoni Nov. 29–30 provided a new record for *Van Zandt/Rains* (†MWh, KW, ph., BGi, RR).

In contrast to last fall's bumper crop, the only Black-legged Kittiwake this season was a first-winter bird at N. Padre I., *Kleberg*, Nov. 9 (†ph., PD, GC). Out of 45 accepted records for the state, a Sabine's Gull seen on the Sept. 20 boat trip off Port O'Connor (†JA, ME, PH, RG et al.) constituted only the 2nd pelagic record and the 5th adult. A late imm. Sabine's was at Greenville Nov. 18–29 (ph., †MWh et al.), a first for *Hunt*. A Gull-billed Tern at San Antonio Sept. 20 (CSH, JRo) was far inland. A scarce inland migrant, there were 8 reports of Com. Tern from w. and n. Texas, the most notable being a very late adult at Greenville Nov. 18 (MWh).

As mentioned above for some of the shearwaters and storm-petrels, Bridled Tern has proven to be an expected species in moderate numbers in summer and fall 60–100 mi off the Texas coast. Records this season included 11 Bridled Aug. 23 and eight more Sept. 20 off Port O'Connor (m.ob.). A few to several dozen Sooty Terns were seen on these pelagics as well. A concentration of 20,000 Black Terns Sept. 12 along Mustang I was certainly notable (TA)

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued in Canyon and elsewhere, while there were new reports from Ft. Clark Springs Aug. 14 (TBa) and San Angelo Nov. 16 (TM). An experienced observer reported two Blue Ground-Doves at Salineño Nov. 19 (†CE, to T.B.R.C.). This species, reported at least twice before in the L.R.G.V., is regular in s. Tamaulipas. We hope someday to receive photo documentation for this potential new U.S. species.

The major Brownsville roost of Green Parakeets burgeoned to 300+ by late fall (BMc, CS). A Black-billed Cuckoo at Cooper L. Aug. 27 (MWh) provided a 2nd county record and one of few fall reports for n.c. Texas. A Spotted Owl discovered on private land in the upper reaches of the Davis Mts Aug. 2 (JKa, FJ, GL, CS) provided only the 2nd record there, although the species is likely to be resident there. Probably at the n. edge of their known range, up to six Lesser Nighthawks were seen in the Abilene area as late as Sept. 7 (LB et al.). A *Chaetura* swift at Ft. Bliss Oct. 19 (†JPa) might have been a Vaux's. Any *Chaetura* in El Paso is unusual, and Vaux's is still not accepted on the Texas list.

The bulk of the diverse and abundant hummingbird array in the Trans-Pecos was "swept" out of the area rather suddenly Sept. 6–7, although the area eventually tallied a 10th and 11th species for the season (Ruby-throated and Anna's). The peak of the hummingbird migration on the c. Texas coast, made up mostly of Ruby-throateds, stretched from about Sept. 9–23, when "swarms" were reported at many feeders. Texas' 6th **Green-breasted Mango** turned up at Corpus Christi Nov. 3 (J&VSi, †PBe, †PH, ph., KBa, WS, m.ob.), stayed through Nov. 8, then turned up at another nearby feeder Nov. 29 (JS et al.) and remained into the winter. The male **White-eared Hummingbird** in the Davis Mts. from the summer report was last seen Aug. 23. Also delighting observers, a **Berylline Hummingbird** showed up at this same set of Davis Mts. feeders Aug. 17 and remained through Sept. 4 (†ph., KB, D&LH, MAD, CSH, m.ob.). There had been one single-observer sight record of this species in Big Bend in 1991, but the present bird was quite cooperative and was seen and photographed (first photos for Texas) by many who visited, thanks to the hospitality of Mark and Maryann Eastman.

An amazing 120+ Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were seen on the Kenedy Ranch, *Kenedy*, in late August (BFr). Out-of-range

female Blue-throateds were found in Canyon Aug. 15 (A&HS) and at Bastrop Aug. 22–24 (BFr). One Blue-throated and two Magnificents lingered in the Davis Mts. until Nov. 8 and Nov. 15, respectively (*vide* KB). Coinciding with the migration peak on the Texas coast, an unprecedented number of Ruby-throateds were detected in the c. and s. Trans-Pecos in September. For example, up to 26 Ruby-throateds were in *Jeff Davis* through the month, although Paton pointed out that Ruby-throateds didn't make it as far w. as El Paso.

All of the regular hummingbird species in the Panhandle lingered late: Black-chinned to Oct. 27, Broad-tailed to Nov. 25, and Rufous to Nov. 4 (m.ob.). An Anna's was in *Calhoun* Oct. 7, where it is one of the rarer migrants (PH). A stray Calliope was near Victoria Sept. 1–2 (RW). Returning for its 3rd winter, a probable male Allen's showed up in San Antonio Aug. 3 and stayed through the season (HW).

One to two Green Kingfishers were at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village Aug. 24 onward (MAd, RW, m.ob.). Slightly out of range were a Golden-fronted Woodpecker in *Oldham* Sept. 26 through the period (KS) and a Red-bellied Woodpecker in Canyon Nov. 18 (BiMc, RSc, PT). A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Aransas Pass Oct. 18–24 (E&NA, CC) was also somewhat of a surprise. A few counties w. of its regular range, a Pileated Woodpecker was in *Montague* in early November (JHo), probably a county first.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

A Least Flycatcher at Ft. Bliss Sept. 10 (BZ) provided a rare El Paso area record. A "Western" flycatcher, thought to be a Cordilleran, was at College Station Sept. 27 (†BeF, SD), while another was reported Honey Creek S.N.A. on the same date (SWie). A *Myiarchus* believed to be an Ash-throated was in *Harrison* Sept. 4 (DMet, PHa), an unusual record for n.e. Texas. Wandering Great Kiskadees included individuals at Indianola Sept. 23 (PH) and near Bandera Oct. 4 (SWie). An out-of-range Couch's Kingbird was reported at Brazos Bend Nov. 30 (TxB). A somewhat out-of-place Cassin's Kingbird was at Midland Oct. 4 (SS, DK). Noteworthy Eastern Kingbird concentrations included 70 in *Hemphill* Aug. 23 (EK et al.) and "several hundred" in stormy weather at Indianola Sept. 23 (PH). A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** near Anahuac, Chambers, Sept. 13 (†DS) will provide the 10th Texas record, if ac-



The Rose-throated Becard flirts with the Texas border, appearing north of it only occasionally. This bird remained at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge from late July to early October, and was photographed on August 18, 1997. Photograph/Dan Jones

cepted by the T.B.R.C. The Rose-throated Becard at Santa Ana from the summer was seen at least through Oct. 3 (m.ob.).

Single Purple Martins at El Paso Aug. 7 (JPa) and Sept. 15 (BZ), and in *Hudspeth* Sept. 20 (JPa), provided rare El Paso area records. A Purple Martin in *Gray* Oct. 10 was the latest on record for the Panhandle, as was a N. Rough-winged Swallow in *Potter* on the same date (EK, RSc, PT). A testament to the mild fall, up to 5 species of swallows lingered at McNary, *Hudspeth*, into late November (BZ, JPa). Up to 20 Cave Swallows were seen in Abilene Sept. 20 (TxB) and a concentration of 40–50 Cave Swallows was seen in *Matagorda* Oct. 26 (TE).

JAYS TO PIPITS

A single Blue Jay, which had been in Edinburg for over a year, was finally seen Nov. 18 (TB). Brown Jays seem to be back in normal numbers in the areas below Falcon Dam after several sparse seasons (m.ob.). Only two–three Tamaulipas Crows were at the Brownsville landfill, in contrast to past years when hundreds were sometimes seen. The Carolina Chickadee at Sabal Palms from summer continued to be reported. Other out-of-range Carolina Chickadees included one at Rockport Nov. 12 (A&MC), Goose I. Nov. 22 (E&NA), and Santa Ana Nov. 24 (RB).

The Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion,

which was first apparent in n. Texas in late September, brought substantial numbers of birds into c. and e. Texas by mid-October. A few individuals reached the coast (e.g., at Sea Rim Oct. 16 and Aransas Pass Oct. 18) and made it all the way to Santa Ana from Oct. 19–Nov. 19 (m.ob.). This movement of Red-breasteds was not evident in w. Texas (*vide* FW, JPa).

Last reported in the Panhandle in 1987, Cactus Wrens were in *Oldham* Aug. 14–Sept. 29 (KS); on the latter date an old nest was detected. A Winter

Wren at Sabal Palms in early to mid-November was about as far south as they get (AW). A very early Sedge Wren was at Cooper L. Aug. 9 (MWh); recent studies published in the *Wilson Bulletin* suggest that we should be watching for a breeding population in that area. There were indications of a Sedge Wren influx late in the fall the length of the e. half of the state (m.ob.). Two Marsh Wrens were found at Rita Blanca L., *Hartley*, on the extremely early date of Aug. 15 (EK, RSc), beating the previous early date by a month.

A few Golden-crowned Kinglets were noted in Brownsville, Sabal Palms, and at Santa Ana Nov. 12–Dec. 1 (m.ob.), but elsewhere no serious influx of the species was noted. A collection of 1100 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Smith Pt., *Chambers*, Aug. 22 was eye-popping (TxB). The only report we received of Mt. Bluebird was from *Wichita* in late September and early October, suggesting that this wasn't an invasion year. Lost Maples hosted a late Swainson's Thrush Nov. 18 (SWie), and a late Wood Thrush was at Boca Chica Nov. 14 (WS). A Wood Thrush at Big Bend Oct. 3 (PC) provided a first fall record for the park. Only a single write-up of the two Clay-colored Robins at Bentsen was received (†CE), despite the fact that scores of birders watched these birds Nov. 14 through the period. A Varied Thrush was reported at Santa Ana Nov. 29 (†HD); of the 16 Texas records of this species, this will be the 3rd for the L.R.G.V., if accepted.

Gray Catbirds at Big Bend Oct. 5 (MF) and Nov. 7 (BWel) were of interest, as was another at Ft. Bliss Oct. 17 (BZ); a Gray Catbird in *Kress*, *Swisher*, Nov. 22–27 (JRe)

was very late. Sage Thrashers were in evidence at and beyond the e. edge of their normal fall range; a Sage Thrasher in *Harrison* Oct. 19 (GLu, ER) was the farthest afield. Arvin located an out-of-range Long-billed Thrasher along the Colorado R. in *Matagorda* Nov. 8. A species that seldom gets reported in the Panhandle—but one that surely occurs regularly—was a Sprague's Pipit in *Oldham* Sept. 29 (KS), a new county record.

VIROES AND WARBLERS

A Black-capped Vireo in *Midland* Sept. 28–Oct. 4 (T&GPot) provided a 5th county record. A pair of Bell's Vireos with two young in tow Aug. 3 at Salineño provided a very rare L.R.G.V. record (BMc, OC). A Yellow-throated Vireo in *Midland* Sept. 21 (RMS) provided a first fall county record. Very late was a Yellow-throated Vireo at Hagerman Oct. 20 (LL). A very early Blue-headed Vireo was at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson*, Aug. 17 (KSt). Rare in the fall in w. Texas, two Red-eyed Vireos were at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village Aug. 10 (BZ, VE)

There were perhaps fewer truly rare migrant warblers around the state, but instead we had a slew of uncommon locality reports (Table 2). Quite a variety of species posted early records in August. Until the first hard weather of the winter pushed them out, many warblers were still hanging around on the coast in early November. Late warblers were taking advantage of mild conditions in mid-November in the L R G.V. where at least 17 species were tallied by the influx of birders there.

En masse, the data suggested that Magnolia Warblers drifted to the west this season, as perhaps did numbers of Worm-eating Warblers. An irruption of Pine Warblers seemed to be taking shape by mid-November well into s. Texas. An early fall-out Aug. 24 dropped at least 200 Wilson's Warbler onto Beaumont (TxB).

On an Aug. 2 visit to private property at about 7800 ft elevation in the Davis Mts., a **Slate-throated Redstart** (possibly two birds!) stunned observers (†JKa, FJ, ph., GL, CS). Photos of this bird will elevate the species to the main Texas state list, although there is one previous accepted sight record for this state and about 5 other records from Arizona/New Mexico. An attempt was made a week later to relocate the bird(s) without success.

A Golden-crowned Warbler was reported Nov. 20–27 at Santa Ana, but we've seen only one brief set of details (†JL, TJa, *vide*

MQ). A rarity such as this (10 accepted North American records) would seem to deserve much greater attention.

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Big Bend Aug. 22 (MAd, RW) was unexpected. Also interesting were single Black-headed Grosbeaks in *Dallas* Sept. 11 (RC, BV, LZ) and in Bryan Sept. 24 (SD). A Green-tailed Towhee in *Young* Nov. 23 was likely a first county record (KN); another in Palo Duro Canyon Nov. 29 was late so far north (TSh). A new *Kenedy* record was established Aug. 30 when five White-collared Seedeaters were closely observed on the Kenedy Ranch (BFR). Adding to the Botteri's Sparrow report in *Presidio* in the summer, the family group of sparrows was seen as late as Sept. 14 (MAd). Unexpected in c. Texas, a Brewer's Sparrow was studied in Austin Nov. 1, while another was in nearby *Hays* Nov. 8 onward (BR et al.).

Certainly out-of-range, a Black-throated Sparrow was discovered at Anahuac Nov. 8 (PS) for only the 3rd U.T.C. record. By mid-November, a strong influx of Lark Buntings was apparent in the species' regular winter range through the Edwards Plateau and into s. Texas. Small numbers spilled eastward, as evidenced by a single bird at Port Aransas Nov. 12 (A&MC). Many observers in c. and e. Texas reported very high numbers of Le Conte's Sparrows in suitable habitat (CS et al.). An imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow was in El Paso Nov. 16–19 (†JPa, BZ) for about the 19th Texas record.

A single Smith's Longspur in *Smith* Nov. 23 was a good find (PB, GLu). A flock of 12 Chestnut-collared Longspurs in n. Austin Oct. 19 (BFR) provided the earliest ever local arrival date, while another group of 12 Chestnut-collareds at L. Tawakoni Nov. 8 through the period (m.ob.) were a bit unusual.

A great find in Midland was a Rusty Blackbird Nov. 15 (J&DMe). A Shiny Cowbird was described at Goose I., *Aransas*, Nov. 8 (†JMCh); if accepted, this will represent the first fall record for Texas. A concentration of 40 Hooded Orioles and 28 Audubon's Orioles on the Kenedy Ranch at the end of August (BFR) was noteworthy, as was a count of 100 Baltimores at Cooper L. Sept. 4 (MWh). A late Bullock's

Oriole was in Clarendon, *Donley*, Nov 23–25 (VT, JO), while another was in San Antonio Nov. 22 (SWie).

The only Red Crossbill report for the season comes from *Nacogdoches* (RiS, ChC) Sept. 8, completing a full year of sightings for this first-time invader to the Piney-woods. Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches were clearly in lower numbers statewide than we normally expect by the end of the season (m.ob.). The observation of Lesser Goldfinches with young in *Donley* from mid-August onward (VT) provided a very rare nesting record for the Panhandle. An amazing count of over 1000 Lesser Goldfinches was tallied on the Kenedy Ranch in late August (BFR).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

In addition to the documented records listed above, we received the following reports of Texas Review Species with insufficient or no documentation: a Masked Duck at Attwater Nov. 30; a N. Goshawk at Muleshoe Nov. 9; a N. Jacana at Santa Ana Nov. 28; an ad. Little Gull at White Rock L., Dallas, Nov 15; and a Blue Bunting at Santa Ana Oct. 4

TABLE 1: HAWK WATCH SEASON TOTALS FOR TEXAS, FALL 1997

SPECIES	SMITH POINT	HAZEL/BAZEMORE
Black Vulture	134	425
Turkey Vulture	1,225	10,420
Osprey	53	82
Am. Swallow-tailed Kite	40	7
White-tailed Kite	11	4
Mississippi Kite	2,125	2,971
Bald Eagle	2	—
Northern Harrier	444	87
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4,779	942
Cooper's Hawk	1,136	505
Harris's Hawk	—	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	44	76
Broad-winged Hawk	30,374	823,701
Swainson's Hawk	137	307
White-tailed Hawk	—	4
Zone-tailed Hawk	—	2
Red-tailed Hawk	331	113
Ferruginous Hawk	—	1
Rough-legged Hawk	—	1?
Golden Eagle	3	1
Crested Caracara	6	9
Am. Kestrel	1,297	191
Merlin	99	24
Peregrine Falcon	64	73
Prairie Falcon	—	8
TOTALS	42,941	840,425

Source: Compiled from the internet and from Hawk Migration Association of North America and HawkWatch International (courtesy of Winnie Burkett, Patty Beasley, and John Economidy).

CORRIGENDA

In *Field Notes* 51(4):892 we stated that the April 26, 1997, grounding on the U.T.C. produced Morgan's highest ever single-day count of total migrants with 4222 individuals. This was in error and should be corrected to be his 6th best single day count of Neotropical migrants.

Cited observers (subregional editors in boldface): Don Acord, Peggy Acord, Mark Adams (MAd), Robin Alexander, Cheryl Allen, Tony Amos, Dick Anderson (DAn), Earl Anderson, Julie Anderson, Fred Armstrong, Nina & Eddie Arnold, John Arvin, Mike Austin, Andy Balinsky, Peter Barnes, Keith Bartels (KBa), Tina Bauguess (TBa), Bill & Patty Beasley (B&PBe), Carl & Ellie Beck, Jane Benefield, Robert Benson, Ray Bieber, Nancy Bird, David Blankinship, **David Bradford** (U.T.C.: 18046 Green Hazel, Houston, TX 77084. email: brdfrd@tenet.edu), Tim Brush, **Kelly Bryan** (Trans-Pecos: P.O. Box 786, Ft. Davis, TX

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TABLE 2. UNUSUAL WARBLER RECORDS IN TEXAS, FALL 1997

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER
Blue-winged	Aug. 3	Sabine Woods	TxB
Tennessee	Aug. 23	Port Aransas	E&NA
Tennessee	Oct. 5	Big Bend	MF
Tennessee	Nov. 17-19	Sabal Palms	AW
Virginia's	Aug. 24	Big Bend	MAd, RW
N. Parula	Sept. 22	Dumas	CSt
N. Parula	Sept. 29	Ft. Bliss	BZ
Tropical Parula	Sept. 6	S. Padre I.	BMc
Magnolia	Aug. 24	N. Padre I.	E&NA
Magnolia	mid-Sept.	Callahan	TxB
Magnolia	Sept. 21	Grandfalls	BJP
Magnolia	Oct. 27	Grayson	LL
Magnolia	Nov. 22	Attwater	LHo
Cape May	Oct. 15	Galveston I.	JSt
Black-throated Blue	Oct. 2-4	Tarrant	SC
Townsend's	Aug. 17	Mason	DF
Townsend's	Sept. 20	Galveston I.	JSt
Townsend's	Nov. 15	Sabal Palm	JMu
Townsend's	Nov. 29	Laguna Atascosa	WR
Blackburnian	Oct. 9	Grandfalls	BJP
Yellow-throated	Sept. 6	Cooper L.	MWh
Yellow-throated	Oct. 16	L. Ray Roberts	LH
Prairie	Sept. 9	Cooper L.	MWh
Bay-breasted	Aug. 23	Aransas Pass	E&NA
Cerulean	Oct. 22	Sabine Woods	TxB
Am. Redstart	Sept. 23	Ft. Bliss	BZ
Prothonotary (3)	Sept. 12	Austin	SR
Prothonotary	Sept. 12	Midland	JMc
Prothonotary	Sept. 21	Midland	RMS
Worm-eating	Aug. 10 & 20	Big Bend	BFr et al.
Worm-eating	Sept. 8	Lubbock	KD
Ovenbird	Aug. 17	Sabine Woods	TxB
Louisiana Waterthrush	Sept 1	San Angelo	TxB
Kentucky	Aug. 2	Callahan	TxB
Mourning	Sept. 23	Amarillo	BiMc, RSc
MacGillivray's	Sept. 10	San Patricio	E&NA
Hooded	Nov. 22	Sabine Woods	JWh
Canada	mid-Sept.	Callahan	TxB