

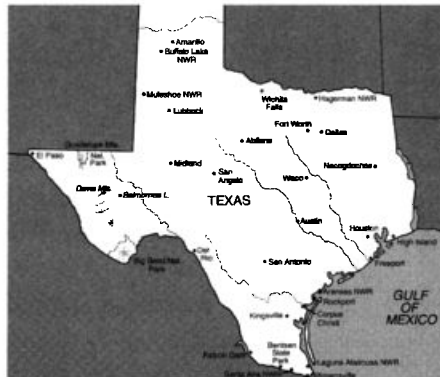
Bluff, NE, 4 Dec and again 20 Feb (SJD), with others in *Keith*, NE, 19 Feb (SJD). Rare westward was an ad. male Purple Finch in *Keith*, NE, 2 Jan (SJD), with a female in *Buffalo*, NE, 17 Jan (LR, RH). White-winged Crossbills were reported from *Burt*, NE, 5 Dec (JGJ), *Leavenworth*, KS, 15–28 Dec (GP, m.ob.), and *Morton*, KS, 31 Dec (SS). A Com. Redpoll was seen south in *Creek*, OK, 21 Jan (BGa).

Cited observers (area editors boldfaced):

KANSAS: Doris Burnett, Don & Margaret Clemence, Ted Cable, Mark Corder, Jan Conrad, Joyce Davis, Suzanne Fellows, Chet Gresham, Bob Gress, Matt Gearheart, Larry Hased, Chris Hobbs, Tyler Hicks, Pete Janzen, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks, Joyce Lent, Mick McHugh, Dan Mulhern, **Lloyd Moore**, John Northrup, Galen Pittman, Brandon Percival, Dave Rintoul, Mike Rader, Richard Rucker, David Seibel, Diane Seltman (DiS), Scott Seltman, Steve Seltman (StS), Margy Stewart, John Schukman, Max Thompson, Phil Wedge, David Weible, Chris Woods. NEBRASKA: Laurel Badura, John Brennehan, Mark Brogie, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Larry Einemann, David C. Ely, Joe Gubanyi, Robin Harding, Susan Herrick, Thomas Hoffman, Glen Hoge, Wanda Hoge, Bill F. Huser, Todd Jensen, Jan Johnson, Joel G. Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Sandy Lemmon, Gary Lingle, Jeffrey S. Palmer, Don Paseka, Lanny Randolph, **W. Ross Silcock**, John Sullivan (JSu), David L. Swanson, Phil Swanson. OKLAHOMA: David Arbour, **James W. Arterburn**, Mike Ayling, Sandy Berger, Bill Carter, Mickie Duggan, Jon Dunn, Bob Gard (BGa), Joseph A. Grzybowski, Berlin Heck, George & Marty Kamp, Steve Metz, Jim Munn, Louis & Renee Newman, Jerry Oldenettel, John Sterling (JSt), Steven William, Don Wolfe (DWO), Ellie Womack.



texas



Chuck Sexton

101 E. 54th St.
Austin, Texas 78751-1232
(cwsexton@onr.com)

Greg W. Lasley

305 Loganberry Ct.
Austin, Texas 78745-6527
(glasley@earthlink.net)

Mark Lockwood

6710 Lancret Hill Dr.
Austin, Texas 78745
(mwlockwood@juno.com)

Observers tried to look for some silver lining around the edges of our “continuing saga of drought” (Sekula). The dry conditions forced raptors such as Red-tailed Hawks and Prairie Falcons to make foraging forays into urban Midland. Perhaps it was the lack of surface water in much of far west Texas (more so than usual) that prompted large concentrations of waterbirds at an oasis like Balmorhea and contributed to a memorable Christmas Bird Count there; the few other sizable west Texas water holes such as Imperial and Red Bluff Reservoirs were also hotspots. The record-low water levels of east Texas reservoirs prompted the winter occurrence of shorebirds and waders normally absent from that area. Longspurs in the northern Panhandle were principally confined to irrigated fields and sought moisture at leaky water wells or other precious local water sources. Only in our westernmost corner in El Paso was adequate rainfall reported; as well, deep south Texas (especially *Kenedy*) still had good freshwater levels as a fading reminder of Hurricane *Bret* last August. The lack of precipitation coupled with generally mild to warm temperatures were manifested in an unprecedented holdover of linger-

ing migrant passerines throughout the length of the state as well as an early push of northbound waterbirds in mid-February.

Abbreviations: 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*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). Anzalduas, Aransas, Bentsen, Big Bend, Caprock Canyons, Garner, Hagerman, Huaco Tanks, Muleshoe, Palmetto, San Bernard, and Seminole Canyon are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Three Red-throated Loons were reported from L. Texoma late Dec through mid-Feb (WM et al); the species has been annual there for about a decade. A total of nine Pac. Loons were scattered across the state; the most interesting was one picked up on U.S. 90 between Alpine and Marfa in w. Texas and eventually released at Balmorhea S.P. (*vide* KB, MAD). A gathering of 79 Pied-billed Grebes on Greenbelt L., *Donley*, 10 Feb was the largest group ever reported in the Panhandle (KS); another big concentration was 175 on Lake O’ The Pines, *Marion*, 3 Nov (HB). *Aechmophorus* grebes (and other waterbirds) rebounded at Balmorhea L. after being absent for several seasons following the planned fish kill in fall 1998 (KB). A symptom of the mild winter was the presence of large flocks of wintering Am. White Pelicans on several e. Texas reservoirs (e.g., ≤550 at Sam Rayburn Res.; DW, MW). Neotropic Cormorants pushed into e. Texas, a region with few prior records; there were reports from *Angelina*, *Gregg*, *Polk*, and *Smith*, including a first record for the Longview CBC. Seventy-eight Double-crested Cormorants in Lubbock through the winter was also a remarkable inland concentration (CSt). An Am. Bittern at Balmorhea S.P. 22 Jan+ was exceptional (TJ et al.). Sixty-six Great Egrets at L. Lonestar, *Morris*, 12 Jan must have been an impressive sight (DBro). Other unexpected wintering herons were a Little Blue in *Harrison*, 15 Dec (GLu, EdR), a Tricolored at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend, 27 Jan (BHe), and a Reddish Egret all winter at Balmorhea L. (ph. KB et al.), the latter providing a first Trans-Pecos winter record. White and *Plegadis* Ibises wintered in unprecedented numbers at inland loca-

Classified Advertising available in
North American Birds
Classified Advertising: \$25/insertion in “Market Place” (appears on the page before “Pictorial Highlights”)
Published four times a year.
For information or to reserve space:
Call 800/850-2473

tions in the e. half of Texas (m.ob.). Yet another indicator of lingering long-legged waders was a first winter record of Roseate Spoonbill in *Angelina* 12 Feb (NBi, LSm, GGu). The last Turkey Vulture to withdraw from the Trans-Pecos for the winter was one in Big Bend 13 Dec (BHe).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Of 4500 white geese at L. Rita Blanca, *Hartley*, 8 Jan, the great majority were Ross's (EK et al.). A blue-morph Ross's was at L. Tawakoni, 20 Jan (MWh). Muscovy Ducks were hard to find on the Rio Grande this winter, but Gary Waggener came upon 23 on the river in Starr, 6 Jan. A Cinnamon Teal at Sam Rayburn Res., 26–27 Feb, was only the fifth for e. Texas in 30 years (DW, MW, et al.). Cinnamons were extra-abundant in the Trans-Pecos, including a record concentration of over 100 at Balmorhea L. (m.ob.). At that location, all the regular-occurring *Aythya* sp. were in record numbers, as were Ruddy Ducks and Am. Coots. Interesting scoter records included a well-documented Black at L. Tawakoni 28 Dec–21 Feb (MWh, ph. DaH, KWh) and a male Surf at Balmorhea L. remaining from the fall through 28 Dec (m.ob.). A Long-tailed Duck was at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant*, 6–8 Dec (MR) and two more were at Galveston, 2 Jan (WRi). A flock of 450 Hooded Mergansers was quite a concentration on a small lake in Greenville, *Hunt*, during Jan–Feb (MWh). An 11 Jan Com. Merganser provided a first Cooper L. and *Delta* record (MWh).

Hook-billed Kites were reported through the season, with a peak count of four seen at Bentsen 27 Feb (GL, KE), including the dark-morph bird first reported a year ago. Another was at the Chihuahua Woods Preserve, *Hidalgo*, 7 Jan (TBr). Two imm. Bald Eagles were an interesting find at Grapevine Hills in Big Bend 22 Dec (PP). Somewhat unexpected was a Harris's Hawk at Eagle L., *Colorado*, 19 Feb (ML, MLa). A possible Roadside Hawk was reported during the period at Bentsen, but was inconclusively documented (to T.B.R.C.). There are but three accepted records of Roadside Hawk in the U.S., the most recent in 1982–1983, despite marginally documented reports every few years or so. By contrast, an ad. light-morph Swainson's Hawk was well-described at Anzalduas 9 Feb (KE). A Zone-tailed Hawk was a nice find in s. *Bexar* 7–25 Dec (*fide* GSc), as was another at Palmetto 14 Jan (LHo). A Ferruginous Hawk stayed in *Mason* in the Hill Country 29 Jan+ (BoF, DF). Five reports of Rough-legged Hawk were compiled away from the Panhandle

from *Wichita* and *Denton* s. to *Brazos* and *Williamson*. There were also three Rough-leggeds reported on the U.T.C. (m.ob.). A Crested Caracara was unusual in the cen. Hill Country in *Edwards* 25 Jan (SWie). Two Aplomado Falcons from the Matagorda I. release program were found 17 Dec and 22 Jan at San Bernard, *Brazoria* (m.ob.). Three wintering Peregrines were reported in Trans-Pecos locales where the species normally withdraws for the season; another was in *Midland* 18 Dec (GG).

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

We had two interesting reports of Sandhill Cranes in wooded ne. and e. Texas, where they are quite rare: three were over *Nacogdoches* 10 Dec (RaB) and four were over *Hopkins* 15 Dec (MWh). The Aransas/Wood Buffalo flock of Whooping Cranes increased to a record 188 birds (*fide* TSt), including a single stray in *Lynn* 29 Dec & 29 Jan (RLe) and the same or another 16 Feb in *Hall* (BaP). Unusual overwintering Black-bellied Plovers were at Balmorhea L. (MAAd, KB) and Cooper L., *Delta* (MWh). A late Am. Golden-Plover was also at Cooper L. 17 Dec (MWh). Eleven Snowy Plovers were a nice group wintering at Imperial Res. (RMS, RW). The Granger L. area Mt. Plover flock peaked at 184 on 17 Jan (TFen); another flock of 40+ were at New Braunfels 29 Jan (BDo); up to 12 wintered in *Ector* (Bly, BLu). Low water levels in e. Texas reservoirs created good habitat for shorebirds where they are normally sparse.

G r e a t e r
Yellowlegs, Least
Sandpipers, and a
P e c t o r a l
Sandpiper were
all at Sam
Rayburn Res. in
late Feb (DW).
An early influx of
migrant Lesser
Yellowlegs was
detected 18–20
Feb in e. Texas
and the
P a n h a n d l e
(m.ob.). Five
Solitary Sand-
pipers on the cen.
and upper coast
areas (some on
CBCs) were more
than expected in
late Dec; the
species is normal-
ly confined to the
lower coast at that
season. Fennell

re-reported an un-expected flock of 59 Long-billed Curlews wintering in the vicinity of Granger L., in Jan. A Marbled Godwit on the El Paso CBC furnished a first winter record for the Trans-Pecos (JPa et al.).

Another symptom of the early push of migrant shorebirds were some record dates for northbound Baird's Sandpipers: one was at Imperial Res. 17–28 Feb (JWS, RR, FR, RMS), probably providing the earliest report ever for Texas. Others showed up in s. and coastal Texas in late Feb (m.ob.). Twenty-seven Dunlins at L. Tawakoni in Jan–Feb were an unusual inland concentration (MWh). Long-billed Dowitchers were also part of that early influx of northbound shorebirds in late Feb; small numbers were reported in *Angelina*, *Potter*, and *Swisher* (m.ob.). An Am. Woodcock on a private ranch provided a first *Kenedy* record 8 Dec (ph. LDi); another was found at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend 24 Jan (DBu). A few Wilson's Phalaropes were discovered in January in the Corpus Christi area (A&MC), but even stranger were three birds found in *Lubbock* 18 Dec and 5 Feb (CSt, AF).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

A Parasitic Jaeger was a shocker at the Balmorhea CBC 18 Dec (MAAd et al.); a small number of Parasitics and Pomarines were seen in more expected haunts along the coast in Jan. An alternate-plumaged Franklin's Gull was probably an early migrant at L. Somerville, *Burleson*, 26 Feb (CSh et al.). Three Little Gulls showed up in



In spite of populations just across the state lines of Oklahoma and New Mexico, the Black-billed Magpie rarely ventures into Texas. One discovered in Hansford 5 Dec 1999 provided only the third record for Texas. This photo was taken 7 Dec and as many as three birds were present through the winter. Photograph by Greg W. Lasley.

n.-cen. Texas: single ad. birds were at S.S.W.T.P., Dallas, 14 Jan (ph. MWh), at Hagerman 17-18 Jan (ph. GCoo), and at White Rock L., 6-19 Feb (PBi, MAd, MWh, JPe).

A concentration of 600 Bonaparte's Gulls was at Sam Rayburn Res. 3 Feb (DW). A Mew Gull spent at least a few days at a landfill e. of San Antonio 22-24 Jan (ph. WS, J&BRi). Two California Gulls spent several weeks at Galveston's E. Beach in Dec-Jan (m.ob.); others were at Victoria 8 Feb (PH) and in Dallas, 13 Feb (GK). Darker-backed Herring-type gulls created a lot of study and discussion on the coast. Most interesting among them was a bird photographed 26 Feb-Mar apparently of the Vega subspecies, *L. a. vegae* of Siberia (ph. WS, MR et al.; see <<http://www.mart-inreid.com/>>). There are no prior confirmed reports of the subspecies for the contiguous U.S. At least 20 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported on the coast, including about 10 at the Brownsville dump (WS, BMc et al.). A Glaucous Gull at the Victoria dump 4 Feb provided a first county record (PH); another was at Galveston Dec-Jan (DPe, J & WRi). The imm. Black-legged Kittiwake reported in the fall at Imperial Res. was last seen 24 Dec (FR, RMS). An ad. kittiwake was discovered at Balmorhea L. about 4 Dec and remained to 15 Dec (ph. CSh, Mad), providing only the 4th record of an ad. in Texas. Curious inland winter records of Caspian Tern included one at Sam Rayburn Res. 2 Jan (DW), and four over College Station 26 Jan (ERa).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Adding to localities of the burgeoning Eur. Collared-Dove population were reports in Pecos (Reeves), Happy (Swisher), Nacogdoches (*Nacogdoches*), Leander (Williamson), Bishop (Nueces), Riviera (Kleberg), and additional reports from Brazoria, Jefferson, and Colorado among established sites. Two Inca Doves at

Stratford 25 Dec provided a first Sherman record (MK). Up to three Com. Ground-Doves hung out all season at Balmorhea L., where they are unexpected (m.ob.). A single White-tipped Dove was on Blanco Cr. at the convergence of *Bee*, *Refugio*, and *Goliad*, 2 Feb, a northerly record for the cen. coast. An Elf Owl was found in Big Bend 10 Feb (JBo). A Burrowing Owl in *Hansford* 15 Jan (LSa et al.) was far n. of its expected winter range. On 12 Dec, a large "round-headed, dark-eyed" owl was flushed from salt cedars at Balmorhea L. (DO, KOB). While initially thought to be a Barred Owl, Spotted Owl might have been more likely to occur in that area at that season, although either would be unprecedented there. Long-eared Owls at unexpected locations were found at Hueco Tanks (JSp) and at Big Bend (KH). The last lingering Com. Nighthawk was found over a shopping mall in Victoria 20 Dec (DMu).

Up to 330 White-throated Swifts were at Seminole Canyon 26 Dec, a large number for that location. The Broad-billed Hummingbird in El Paso from the fall report lingered until 24 Feb (JZ). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds returned to Austin 29 Feb (S&BB), a location where they had apparently been present for at least two years but not previously reported. A few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds occasionally winter on the U.T.C., but a female that overwintered in *Nacogdoches* (CEI) was banded at this same location the previous winter. Unprecedented for the Lubbock area were three species of hummingbirds together at one location, including a Black-chinned, a male Anna's, and Rufous during Jan-Feb (RE). It was a good winter for Anna's on the U.T.C. with multiple individuals in *Galveston*, *Chambers*, *Harris*, *Brazoria*, and *Liberty* (ph., m.ob.). Slightly inland from the U.T.C., another Anna's in *Washington* 6 Dec-12 Jan (GCol, LSt) provided only the 2nd Brazos Valley record. An Anna's Hummingbird nest found in El Paso during late Feb (Bhi) provided only the second state nesting record. This occurrence was well-documented with photos and videotape; by the end of the period two young were in the nest being attended by the female. Calliopes were reported in Houston 30 Dec (SP) and in Harlingen 10 Jan (MiR et al), the latter record perhaps the first for the L.R.G.V. At least three Broad-tailed Hummingbirds wintered in El Paso (*fide* BZ). An ad. Allen's Hummingbird was netted and photographed in the hand in Houston 25-27 Feb (FC), providing about the 10th well-documented state record. Another possible Allen's was at

Freeport late Dec-early Feb, but was not captured.

There were several interesting kingfisher records, including single Ringed Kingfishers at Garner 28 Dec (CRo) and in *Llano* 21 Dec (RK, MCa, AF) and a Green Kingfisher at San Angelo 5 Feb (GCr). Notable were three Acorn Woodpeckers in *Midland* 13-23 Jan (AT). A far-ranging Red-naped Sapsucker was videotaped in *Brazoria* 19 Dec (R&MB, MCr, RWe) for only the 2nd U.T.C. record. Another spent the winter at Bentsen. Williamson's Sapsuckers were regularly encountered in the Davis Mts. during the period, while one was in Big Bend 31 Dec (CMe).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

There are only two or three previous records of *Empidonax* flycatchers in the Panhandle during winter, none in January. On the warm afternoon of 21 Jan Seyffert encountered a "whit-ing" unidentified *Empidonax* at Palo Duro. Slightly n. of their normal winter range were single Vermilion Flycatchers in *Bell* 18 Dec (RPi) and *Segovia*, *Kimble*, 9 Dec-7 Feb (AL). A well-described Great Crested Flycatcher was in McAllen 20 January (LR, HP, KM); this species is extremely rare in winter, but there are at least two old specimen records. Far-flung Great Kiskadees continue to amaze us. One at Hagerman from the fall report remained into Feb (ph., m.ob.), while two were discovered in Temple 18 Dec-1 Jan (P&JT, Rpi) and two more were at Seadrift, *Calhoun*, 2 Jan (BF). Tropical Kingbirds seem to be continually expanding their range in s. Texas. In addition to the well-known localities for this species, others were found in four new *Hidalgo* locations (TBr, RPi, KE, et al) as well as another in *Kenedy* 8 Jan (BF) for a new county record. Many Couch's Kingbirds typically withdraw into Mexico during the winter. Such was not the case this season, as the species remained common through the period in the L.R.G.V. Couch's were also noted up the coast to the U.T.C. and one was in *Washington* 26 Jan-27 Feb for a first county record (DV). Extremely early was an E. Kingbird in *Burleson* 29 Feb (CL); the earliest Texas record is 23 Feb. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was well-described from a private ranch in *San Patricio* 18 Dec (LB), providing about the 12th record for Texas. A male Rose-throated Becard reappeared at Anzalduas during Feb, probably one of the same birds present there last year (m.ob.). Historically, White-eyed Vireos did not winter regularly in the Central Brazos Valley; however, during the past few winters

SA A banded ad. Black-headed Gull returned to Tarrant for its 3rd winter, 24 Dec-18 Feb (MR, m.ob.). After two years of trying, Reid was finally able to read the band number; correspondence confirmed that it had been banded as a young bird out of the nest 100 km n. of Helsinki, Finland, in 1996. This gull is the first known banded Finnish bird of any species in the United States (*fide* MR).



Not surprisingly, Snow Buntings seldom wander as far south as Texas. The state's fifth was this first-winter male photographed the first day of its 26–29 Dec visit to Lake Tawakoni, Rains. Photograph by Matt White.

Frenz and others have noted that large numbers spend the winter there and many are singing on territory by late Feb. A Bell's Vireo at Seadrift 15 Jan represented a rare winter record (PH). We are still trying to sort out the winter distribution of "Solitary" Vireos in Texas. This season we received reports of single Plumbeous Vireos from El Paso 11 Dec (JZ, MSc), *Lubbock* 5 Jan (PKi, BPh), *Midland* 6 Feb (m.ob.), and San Antonio 7 Feb (CCu). Cassin's Vireos were reported by several knowledgeable observers on as many as six CBCs in the e. half of Texas and on the U.T.C. We continue to urge extreme caution in the identification of Cassin's Vireo in Texas away from their expected migrant path through the Trans-Pecos, because dull female Blue-headededs can appear quite "Cassin's-like". A Hutton's Vireo at Davis Mts. SP, 17 Dec was unexpected at that elevation (KB). Another extreme winter rarity was a Warbling Vireo at Midland 6 Feb (m.ob.); there are no well-documented winter records for Texas, although a number of sight reports exist.

JAYS THROUGH THRASHERS

Green Jays seemed to move around more than usual this season, including 26 in Beeville through the period (JJ), five in Victoria 17 Jan (BF), and one in San Antonio 26 Dec–16 Jan (*fide* GSc). Brown Jays continued to be somewhat less widespread than in recent years, but were easy to find at a few local areas such as Salineño and Chapeño. Despite populations nearby in Oklahoma and New Mexico, there were only two well-documented records of **Black-billed Magpie** in Texas before this season. The Carpenters located one along Coldwater Creek in *Hansford* 5 Dec; later observers had up to three individuals at this same location through the season (ph.,

m.ob.). The sad saga of Tamaulipas Crow in Texas continues. Only one was reported during the entire winter season at the "crow park" in Brownsville and only on one day, 23 Dec (BMc). Strangely, the species is still reported as abundant less than 20 miles away in Matamoros, Mexico. A Horned Lark in *Morris* 29 Jan (D&LBro) was a good find. Cave Swallows are known to winter somewhat regularly in s. Texas, but ≤ 35 at San Bernard 17 Dec–21

Feb (m.ob.) were unexpected. Early expectations of a significant invasion of Red-breasted Nut-hatches spurred by early fall migrants failed to materialize, with only scattered winter reports (RWe, m.ob.). Winter Wrens made news in several areas, including two at Salineño 29 Jan (CHO), another in *Hudspeth* 20 Dec (JPa, BZ, JSp), and unusually high numbers on several e. Texas CBCs. Unexpected Mt. Bluebird records included two in *Johnson* 10–14 Dec (*fide* EW) and one at Port Aransas 8 Jan+ (m.ob., ph. JF).

It was a stunning winter for Clay-colored Robins in s. Texas, with as many as eight in and around Salineño, five at Bentsen (m.ob.), and one in *Kleberg* 7 Feb (TL). Another *Turdus* thrush made news when Kitchens spotted a **Rufous-backed Robin** on the *Kenedy* courthouse lawn at Sarita 31 Jan for the 8th Texas record. The bird was well documented by m.ob. through 13 Feb. Another Texas rarity that caused a stir was Varied Thrush; two males and a female were in *Lubbock* 25 Dec (AF, MeA, MCA). The female stayed only a few days, but the males remained until 4 March, representing the 18th state record. Interesting winter records of Gray Catbird included individuals at Caddo L. 4 Dec (RBer), *Angelina* 23 Dec+ (LDe), Balmorhea 12 Dec (TJ), and Big Bend 21 Jan and 20 Feb (MF, M & JW). The Blue Mockingbird reported for the past several seasons continues at Weslaco on private property, where it is difficult to observe.

PIPITS THROUGH TANAGERS

A notable count of up to 19 Sprague's Pipits were in a *Hudspeth* field 9–20 Dec (BZ) for a first county record. A **Bohemian Waxwing** was well-described from Cooper L., *Hopkins*, 26 Feb for the 9th Texas record (MWh). A very late Tennessee Warbler was

studied in Dallas 4 Dec (MM), while another at Rancho Viejo, *Cameron*, 28 Dec (KE) was a good find. One to two overwintering Nashville Warblers (TJ, DO et al.) in Balmorhea provided a rare Trans-Pecos winter record. An excellent description was submitted of a Lucy's Warbler in *Kenedy* 23 Jan (CR, MG), furnishing only the 3rd acceptable record e. of the Trans-Pecos. Three N. Parulas wintered in the Trans-Pecos at Balmorhea (TJ), Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend (MF), and in El Paso (JPa). The Chestnut-sided Warbler from the fall season in El Paso remained until 18 Dec (ph., BZ, JPa). A male Cape May Warbler was at Sarita 5–16 Feb (ph., m.ob.), and a Black-throated Blue was in College Station 18 Dec (BFe, JDz). Also surprising was a Black-throated Gray in *Midland* 27 Dec–6 Feb (RMS). A Palm Warbler in *Gillespie* 20 Feb provided only the 2nd winter record for the Edwards Plateau (CHA). Well away from its wintering area, a N. Waterthrush at Caddo L. 22 Jan (ERo) was quite notable. Only the second in winter for the Panhandle was a Com. Yellowthroat at Taylor Lakes W.M.A., *Donley*, 17 Jan (KS). A Wilson's Warbler at McNary 20 Dec (ph. BZ) provided the first El Paso area winter record; another in *McLennan* 2 Jan (FB) was unusual. A Summer Tanager at Caddo L. 4 Dec (RBer) was a late southbound migrant, but a brilliant male at McAllen 25 Feb (GL, KE) was perhaps an early northbound individual. A first U.T.C. record was provided by a Hepatic Tanager at Freeport 19 Dec (ph., RWe, R&MB).

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

Since being split, E. Towhees continue to be reported from western localities, including up to four on the South Plains this season. Field Sparrows were reported in high numbers from much of e. and coastal Texas. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Muleshoe 15 Feb (JBr) was unseasonal. Providing the first *Hudspeth* records were a Grasshopper and a Baird's Sparrow in an alfalfa field 9 Dec (BZ). Many observers reported that both Henslow's and Le Conte's Sparrows seemed to be in lower-than-normal numbers within their usual wintering areas in the e. third of the state. Rare for Big Bend, a Harris's Sparrow was located there 10 Jan (*fide* MF). Very rare in cen. Texas, two Gray-headed Juncoes were seen; one was at L. Georgetown, *Williamson*, 26 Dec (TFen) and another was in *Bell* 16 Jan (RPi). Seventy McCown's Longspurs were on N.

Padre I., *Kenedy*, 10 Feb (BS), a nice find for that area. The high count of McCown's wintering in the Granger, *Williamson*, area was 900 on 17 Jan (TFen). Probably as a result of drought conditions in n.-cen. Texas, Smith's Longspurs were virtually unreported. An outstanding find was Texas' 5th **Snow Bunting** at L. Tawakoni, *Rains*, 26–29 Dec (ph. MWh). The bird was seen again briefly on 15 Jan. Wandering n. a bit, Pyrrhuloxias showed up at Caprock Canyons 1 Jan (AF, RK); two others were at Palo Duro 13 Jan–12 Feb (m.ob.). A female Blue Bunting was reported at Bentsen 1–4 Dec (B&RS, J&PC). Later reports there may refer to migrating Indigos. In recent years Rusty Blackbirds have been scarce in Texas, but this winter they made a good showing in the ne. quarter of the state. Most noteworthy were up to 200 at L. Tyler 8 Jan (PBa). Good details were received on a male **Shiny Cowbird** in Houston 4 Feb (WRi); there are only five accepted Texas records, although we expect more of an influx. A single Bronzed Cowbird in *El Paso* 7 Dec (JPa) provided that area's first winter record. A male Hooded Oriole at Big Bend's Panther Junction 12 Dec may have been a late migrant (TV). The only Red Crossbills reported in Texas this winter were a small flock in the Davis Mts. 10–16 Jan (PHart).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

The following Texas rarities were reported with little or no documentation to support their occurrence: Thayer's Gull, L. Texoma, 6 Dec; Lewis's Woodpecker in *Midland*; and two reports of Bohemian Waxwings in Dallas during mid-Feb.

Observers (Sub-regional Editors in bold-face): Mark Adams (MAd), Keith Arnold, Nina & Eddie Arnold, Terry Baldwin, Peter Barnes, Peter Barnes (PBa), Bob Behrstock, Gordon Bell, John & Brenda Bell, Sue & Billie Bernard, Ray Berry (RBer), Peter Billingham (PBi), Adrian Binns, Nancy Bird (NBi), Lytle Blank-enship, Colin Bludau, Hazel Bluhm, Jim Bogue (JBo), David Bradford, Ron & Marcia Braun, David & Luanne Brotherton (D & LBro), Charles & Olivia Brower, Ray Brown (RaB), John Brunges (JBr), Tim Brush, **Kelly Bryan** (Trans-Pecos: P.O. Box 786, Ft. Davis, TX 79734. email: kelly.bryan@tpwd.state.tx.us), Frank Bumgardner, Doug Burl (DBu), Alan Byboth, Gardner Campbell, Marty Campbell (MCa), Eric Carpenter, Larry Carpenter, Charlie Clark, Gail Cole (GCo), Bruce Collins, Fred Collins, Tom & Sherry Collins, Greg Cook (GCoo), Arlie & **Mel Cooksey** (South Texas: 15825 Socorro Loop, Corpus Christi, TX 78418. email:

cybrbrdr@electrotex.com), Kelly Cotten, Todd Council, Cameron Cox (CCo), Marilyn Crane (MCR), Gordon Creel (GCr), Jim & Pat Culbertson, Carolyn Cuthbertson (CCu), Jon Dale (JDa), Louis Debetaz (LDe), Bob Dillby, Larry Ditto (LDi), Ken Dixon, Mary Dodson, Bob Doe (BDoe), Andy Donnelly, June Dossat, Joan Dziezyc (JDz), Marc & Maryann Eastman, Kim Eckert, Jack Eitniear, Eli Elder, Mark Elwonger, Charles Ely (CEl), Rosemary English, Pansy Espey, Floi Ewing, Claudia Fagan, Jessie Fagan, Bill Farnsworth, Tim Fennell (TFen), Dixie Feuerbacher, Bert Filemyer (BFi), Shawneen Finnegan, Mark Flippo, Anthony Floyd, Jim Flynn, G.W. Foster, Tony & Phyllis Frank, Bobbye Frazier (BoF), Brush Freeman, **Bert Frenz** (BeF)(East Texas: 221 Rainbow Dr., PMB 12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021. email: bert@bafrenz.com), Tony Gallucci, Dita Geary, Carl George, Delton Goodin (DGo), Russell Graham, Michael Gray, Gene Grimes, Georgette Guernsey (GGu), Ron & Carol Gutberlet (RGu), Jackie Haley, Carolyn & Glenn Haluska, Kathy Hambly, Chris Harrison (CHa), Pat Hartigan (PHart), Ken Hartman (KeH), Dale Hartsfield (DHa), Hayden Haucke, David & Linda Hedges, David & Linda Heinicke, Bernie Heyman (BHe), Troy Hibbits, Bill Hinton (BHi), Chris Hobbs (CHo), Petra Hockey, Steve Hornstein, Bernice Hotman, Lee Hoy (LHo), Don Hunter (DHu), David Hurt (DaH), Bernice & Ed Jackson, Jimmy Jackson, Ann & Lance Jett, Tom Johnson, Chris Jordon, Derrell Kapan, John Karges (JKa), Mike Keck, Greg Keiran, Jack & Doris Kelly, Isaac Kerns, John Kiseda (JoK), Val Kitchens, Phillip Kite (PKi), Alisa Kline, Rich Kostecke, Ed Kutac, Michael Lacy (MLa), Tom Langschied (TLa), Greg Lasley, Rob Lee (RLe), Paul Lehman, Jason Leifester, L. Leigh, Lee Lemmons, Ann Lemon, Greg Levandoski (GLE), Cathy Liles, Mark Lockwood, Jim Luce, Karl Lukens, Guy Luneau (GLu), Bill Lupardis (BLu), Bill Lybarger (Bly), John MacFarlane, Mike Manson, Jill McAfee, Rich McCamant, Debra McKee (DMc), Bill McKinney (BiMc), Brad McKinney (BrMc), Stennie Meadours, Chris Merkord (CMe), Kevin Metcalf, Wayne Meyer, Paul Miliotis, Michael Millican, Toni Mistretta, Carroll Moore (CMo), Derek Muschalek (DMu), Jim Nerison, Dale Ohl, Carolyn Ohl-Kolb, Bob Ohmart, Brent Ortego, Lucy Parker, Jim Paton (JPa), Dick Peake, Dwight Peake (DPe), Danny Perkins, Glenn Perrigo, Jim Peterson (JPe), Haans Petruschke, Dave Phalen, Bill Phelan (PBh), Barrett Pierce (BaP), Randy Pinkston (RPi), Preston Powell, Truman Powell (TPo), Sumita Prasad, Ross Rasmussen, Ellen Ratoosh (ERa), Eddie Ray (EdR), Jo Redden, Joel Reese (JRe), Martin Reid, Michael Retter (MiR), John & Barbara Ribble (J&BRi), Cecilia Riley, Don Riley, Justin Rink, Jan & Will Risser (J & WRi), James Robinson, Cindy Rodriguez (CRo),

Ellen Roots (ERo), Larry Rosche, Forest Rowland, Billy Sandifer (BSa), Laura Sare (LSa), Rick Schaefer (RiS), Georgina Schwartz (GSc), Marcy Scott (MSC), Rosemary Scott (RSc), **Willie Sekula** (Central Texas: 7063 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113-2627. email: wsekula@the-cia.net), **Ken Seyffert** (Panhandle: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), Cliff & Julie Shackelford (C & JSh), Bill & Rosita Shane, Mark Shavers (MSH), J.W. Sifford (JWS), Grady & Lu Skillern, Lynn Smith (LSm), Sylvestre Sorola, Karl Spilde, John Sproul, Tom Stein (TSt), Cliff Stogner (CSt), Laverna Stolz (LSt), Rose Marie Stortz, Glenn Swartz, Kent Taylor, Allen Temple, Peggy Troser, Phil & Jeff Troy, Linda Valdez, Tom VanDenBerg, Darrell Vollert, Gary Waggener, Darren Wallis (DarW), M & J Walz, Ro Wauer, David Weaver (DWe), **Ron Weeks** (RWe)(UTC: 110 Indian Warrior, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. email: igarapet@brazosport.cc.tx.us), Leo Weigant, Steve Welborn, Allen Wemple, John West (JWe), Ed Wetzel, Joyce Wheeler, Kristin & **Matt White** (K & MWh) (N.C. Texas: 2518 Monroe, Commerce, TX 75428. email: MWHITE@ssisd.net), Sue Wiedenfeld (SWie), Merlien Wilder, Frances Williams, Greer Willis, Jack Windsor (JWin), David Wolf, Mimi Wolf, Jimmie Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer.



SHADE-GROWN COFFEE

SAVES TREES FOR MIGRATING BIRDS

SONG BIRD COFFEE

saves critical bird habitat

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

helps to fund ABA programs, including support for Partners in Flight.

CALL TO ORDER:

800/634-7736

Now sold in 47 states!

Call for the location nearest you or visit

www.songbirdcoffee.com