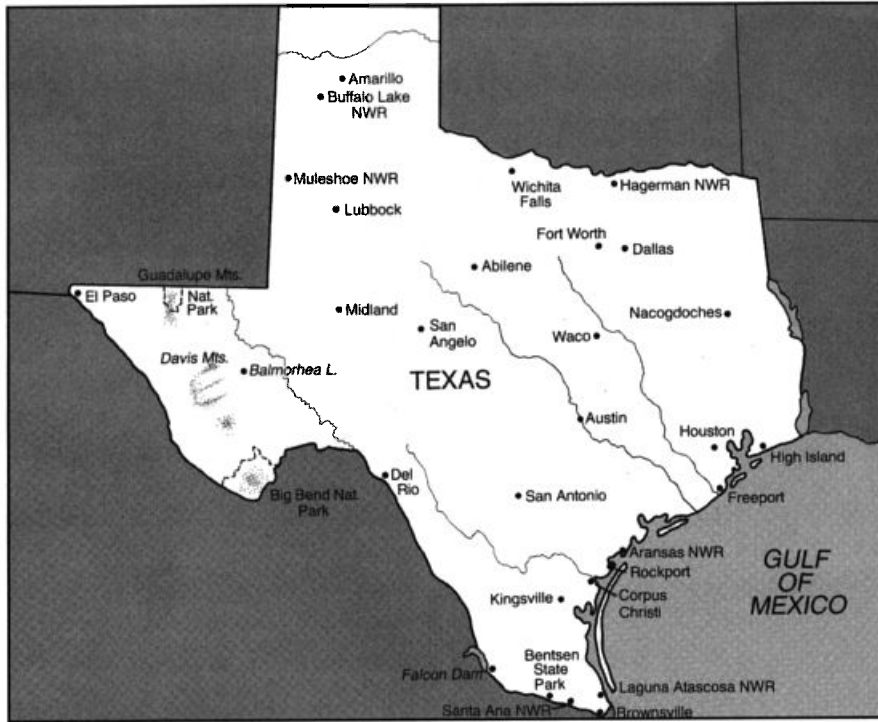


texas



Greg W. Lasley

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

Chuck Sexton

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

Mark Lockwood

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

Parts of northeast and southeast Texas (and an isolated pocket in coastal South Texas) got enough rain to quash any talk of drought, but the rest of the state remained exceptionally dry. Eight years of drought began to take its toll on the pine-oak woodlands in the mountains of west Texas. Observers in north Texas and the High Plains cited this as a very good to “phenomenal” migration. In the latter area five new species were added to the subregional list and the flood of eastern passerines (wind-blown?) was exceptional. A major front which moved through the state 1–3 May brought the best passerine groundings; another storm 19–20 May dropped a lot of shorebirds and flycatchers in eastern and

coastal areas. Although there was a typical smattering of late lingering individuals, the list of early arrivals (predominantly in March) was a pervasive theme throughout the state. Some broad-scale geographic weather patterns were clearly at work. Once again, our overall picture of the migration benefitted from a set of oil-rig sitters offshore.

Abbreviations: L.R.G.V. (Lower Rio Grande Valley); S.S.W.T.P. (South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas); TBRC (Texas Bird Records Committee—Texas Ornithological Society); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast), V.C.D.B. (Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anzalduas, Aransas, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Brazoria, Buffalo L., Devil’s R., Government Canyon, McFaddin, Padre Island, Richland Creek, Santa Ana, and Seminole Canyon.

LOONS THROUGH FLAMINGO

The only Red-throated Loon reported for the season was a single bird offshore of *Calhoun* 13 Mar (BGi). Three Pacific Loons were reported—Sam Rayburn Res. in late Feb (DW, MAD et al.), Lavaca Bay 25 Mar (PH), and Galveston until early Mar (DPe, GG). An extremely late Horned Grebe was reported at McFaddin 15 May (MWb). Clark’s Grebes made news: one was on

Baffin Bay, *Kenedy/Kleberg*, 19 Mar (TFE et al.), a first coastal record, while another was at Buffalo L., *Randall*, 13–20 May (KS, m.ob.), a first Panhandle record. Looking westward, a high count of 92 *Aechmophorus* grebes was made at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, 24 Mar (JPa); they also returned in numbers to Balmorhea L. following last year’s fish kill (*fide* KB). A single Audubon’s Shearwater was seen from an oil rig off *Calhoun* 21 Mar (BGi). An imm. Brown Pelican was at Ft. Bliss 29 Apr (JPa, RR), providing a rare record for *El Paso*. A Neotropical Cormorant in Big Bend’s Santa Elena Canyon 17 Apr (TL) was notable. Noteworthy w. Texas American Bittern records included one at Ft. Bliss 6 May (JSp, RR), the first area record in 14 years, and one at Buffalo L. 11 & 19 May (KS). A Least Bittern at Big Bend 14 May (KB) provided a rare spring record. Five Little Blue Herons were reported from scattered locations in w. Texas (17 Apr–21 May), where they are normally only post-breeding wanderers. Similarly, there were three Trans-Pecos records of Tricolored Herons, including individuals at Big Bend 27 Apr (CT), El Paso 2–4 May (JSp), and Balmorhea L. 10–15 May (RiW, ML, GL). The Reddish Egret at Balmorhea L. remained until at least 15 May (ML, GL). We had five reports of inland Glossy Ibises: 10 Apr at V.C.D.B. (MR), 2 May at Temple (RPi), 2 May at Balmorhea L. (BGi), 23 May

SA There was an apparent influx of **Greater Flamingoes** onto the Texas coast this spring. One showed up in Aransas Bay, *Aransas*, 5 Apr, discovered by a local fisherman (ChN). A second flamingo joined the first about “three weeks later”—they remained through the period and were well-documented (ph., JJ, MC, m.ob.). Another Greater Flamingo was found in *Calhoun* (Espiritu Santo/San Antonio Bays) 15–16 Apr (JWa, ph., *fide* PH). These birds are of the expected Caribbean subspecies, were in bright plumage, and showed no signs of captivity. In addition, we received unsubstantiated reports of at least two others along the Laguna Madre. Prior to this spring the only accepted Texas record of this species was of a single bird present in the upper Laguna Madre for five consecutive springs between 1978–1982. A widely reported Greater Flamingo at Laguna Atascosa during the mid-1990s proved to be of the African subspecies and was thought to be a zoo escapee.



Greater Flamingoes generated excitement in Texas, for they were believed to be wild strays from the Caribbean, the second such occurrence in the state. Through much of spring 2000 these two frequented Aransas Bay, where this photograph was taken 7 May. See the S.A. in the Texas region for details. Photograph by Jimmy Jackson

at S.S.W.T.P., Dallas (BSt), and 25 May at Waco (FB, JMu). A concentration of 150 Wood Storks at Falcon Dam 28 May (MA) was an early vanguard of things to come in the summer, perhaps an indicator of drought in Mexico. Two Black Vultures along the Rio Grande in *Hudspeth* 9 Apr (JSp, JPa et al.) provided a rare record for that area.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A first for the South Plains, ten Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at Levelland, *Hockley*, 3–4 May (LeS, ERo, TMc). Another showed up at Nacogdoches in e. Texas 12 Apr (DW). A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Austin 22–26 May (TFe et al.) was unexpected. A male Eurasian Wigeon was at Imperial Res., *Pecos*, 6 Apr († PH, BrF). Out of place in the Panhandle were two Mottled Ducks at Palo Duro Canyon S.P. 7 Apr (KS). Cinnamon Teal made unusual appearances in e. Texas: two males were on Sam Rayburn Res. 26–27 Feb and 21 Mar (DW). Five more Cinnamons were at Richland Creek 12 Mar–16 Apr (PBa). Unusual for w. Texas, a male Greater Scaup was at Balmorhea L. 15 May (GL, ML). A small raft of 8 Surf Scoters was at Bolivar Flats 15 Apr (RWe, CCo, T&SC). Three Long-tailed Ducks were on the U.T.C. during March. Late Common Goldeneyes included individuals at Waco 20 Apr (JMu, FB) and Round Rock, *Williamson*, 2 May (TFe). Five Red-breasted

Mergansers at Sam Rayburn Res. 12 May (DW) were also late.

A total of 22 Swallow-tailed Kites were reported from the Sylvan Beach hawk-watch, *Harris*, 16 Mar–28 Apr (DBe, JRe et al.), certainly a high count from a single location. White-tailed Kites were noted in *Delta*, *Freeman*, *Hardeman*, *Smith*, and *Tarrant* during late April and May; this number of reports is unusual for that part of the state. Providing a first breeding record for the Davis Mts., a nest of Sharp-shinned Hawks was located on private property 20 May (KB, JKa). Two ad. Gray Hawks frequented *Limpia Creek*, *Jeff Davis*, 2 May+ (BGi, KB), providing the 7th county record. Common Black-Hawks returned to traditional nesting sites at Big Bend, the Davis Mts., and near San Angelo. Single Broad-winged Hawks were found w. of their normal migration path at *El Paso* 21 Apr (JPa), *Buffalo L.*, *Randall*, 9–13 May (BH, KS, LG), and *Crosby* 13 May (RKO, JB). A Short-tailed Hawk was described from Santa Ana 16 Mar (†TP); there are only about a dozen records for the state. Zone-tailed Hawks were reported from three cen. Coastal Plain locations during March (m.ob.); more unexpected was one at Midland 6 May (DK, VW). Rare migrants for e. Texas, 5 Merlins were reported in *Angelina*, *Rusk*, and *Gregg* 1 Apr–1 May (m.ob.). Of interest was an Aplomado Falcon on an oil rig off *Calhoun*

18 Apr (BGi). Another was found between Winnie and Port Arthur 28 Apr (AF); this sighting is the easternmost of an individual from the reintroduction program. A Prairie Falcon was discovered in *Calhoun* 5 Mar (BrF, PH), providing a rare record for the Coastal Bend.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Sadly, for the first time, Attwater's Greater Prairie-Chickens were not found at the traditional lek in *Refugio* (*fide* PH). Purple Gallinules arrived early, with one on a *Brazoria* oil rig 15 Mar (MN) and others along the Upper Coast during March. A high count of 232 American Golden-Plovers was at Sam Rayburn Res. 15 Mar (DW). Migrating Snowy Plovers were of note at Tahoka, *Lynn*, 4 Mar (WC) and L. Worth, *Tarrant*, 10 Apr (MR). A Snowy Plover with young at Bolivar Flats 29 Apr (VE et al.) provided the first nesting record for that area since the 1930s. A surprising concentration of 844 Semipalmated Plover was at *Brazoria* 25 Apr (RWe). A large concentration of 186 Mountain Plovers was noted near Granger L. 13 Mar, with 5 remaining until 25 Mar (TFe); another was present 25 Mar at El Paso (SH), where the species is accidental. Three Black-necked Stilts at L. Tawakoni 25 May (MWh, BSt) were the first for that location in 20 years. Over 60 American Avocets at Sam Rayburn Res. 12 Apr (DW) provided the highest

count ever at that location. Flocks of 6–50 avocets were noted in other ne. locations. A remarkable concentration for the Panhandle was 75 Greater Yellowlegs 28 Mar in *Randall* (KS). Unexpected for the Austin area were 27 Willets 25 Apr and 14 others 1 May (TFe). Small numbers of Willets were noted in several areas of the Panhandle, with individuals at Lubbock 1 Apr (AF) and *Crosby* 8 May (RK), and two at Taylor Lakes, *Donley*, 26 Apr (KS). Small numbers were also noted in four e. Texas counties. Three early Upland Sandpipers were in *Randall* 26 Mar (LSa). Notable inland Whimbrels included one at Balmorhea L. 13 Apr (DO, JSc), 4 at Salado, *Bell*, 1 May (RPI), and 10 at Cooper L. 19 May (MWh, BSt). Continuing the parade of rare migrants in e. Texas, ≤6 Hudsonian Godwits were in Longview 1–19 May (EdR, et al.). A high count of 10 Marbled Godwits was made at Balmorhea L. 2 May (BGi). A Sanderling at Ft. Hancock, *Hudspeth*, 30 May (JPa) and 5 White-rumped Sandpipers at Ft. Bliss 21 May (JPa, RR) provided rare spring records for the Trans-Pecos. Over 1500 Pectoral Sandpipers were reported in *Calhoun* 1 Apr (PH, BrF). Noteworthy inland Dunlins included 17 in *San Augustine* (DW) and 30 in *Harrison* 19 May (GLU, EdR) and 4 in *Randall* 30 Mar (BiMc). Six Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Nacogdoches 4 May (DW) provided one of the few spring record for e. Texas. An early concentration for the Panhandle was 200 Long-billed Dowitchers 28 Mar in *Randall* (KS). Unusual in spring, a Red-necked Phalarope was at Indianola, *Calhoun*, 7 May (BrF).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

Pomarine Jaegers were noted from oil rigs in *Galveston*, *Brazoria*, *Calhoun*, and *Kenedy*, and there were land-based observations from Bolivar Pen. and Padre Island. Notable for the Trans-Pecos were single Laughing Gulls at McNary Res. 13–15 May (JPa, GL, ML) and Balmorhea L. 10–15 May (RiW, ML, GL). A Mew Gull was reported from *Galveston* 11 & 24 Mar (WRi). California Gulls are rare but regular in the Trans-Pecos; this spring 2 were at McNary 26 Apr and 15 May (RR, GL, ML) and one was at Balmorhea L. 6 Apr. (KB). The well-documented apparent *vegae* Herring Gull in Corpus Christi from the winter was last noted 6 Mar (WS, MR, B&JRI). For more information see <http://www.martinreid.com/vegup05.html>. Two ad. Thayer's Gulls were at the Brownsville Landfill 6 Mar (†MI, KE). A first-year Thayer's was at Bolivar Flats 15 Apr (†RR) and Rollover Pass 17 Apr (†GM, MAd). About a dozen

Lesser Black-backed Gulls were scattered along the coast. More notable was a second-year Lesser Black-backed at Buffalo L. 28 Apr & 18 May (†EK, RSc, LSa, KS), providing the first Panhandle record. An intriguing gull, possibly a first-year Slaty-backed, was at La Marque, *Galveston*, 2–3 Apr (†B&JRI, MR); documentation is still being reviewed (see <http://www.martinreid.com/gullsp09.html>). A Black-legged Kittiwake was seen from the *Calhoun* oil rig 11 Mar (BGi). Four Common Terns were at Balmorhea L. 9 May (DO), providing a first spring record there. An unprecedented concentration for the Panhandle was 200–300 Forster's Terns at Buffalo L. 21 Apr (PT). An imm. **Brown Noddy** visited the *Kenedy* oil rig from 27 Apr–1 May (ph., †AW), providing the 7th record for the state.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collard-Doves continue to expand their range in Texas, with new records for *Bee* and *Denton*. They are now present in virtually every town and city along the coast between Corpus Christi and the Louisiana border. Common Ground-Doves seemed to be wandering a little, with sightings in *Brazos*, *Burleson*, *Freestone*, and *Jeff Davis*. A Ruddy Ground-Dove was in El Paso 25–28 Mar (†JPa, SH, m.ob.); there are now about a dozen records of this species in Texas. Providing the 8th Texas record, a **Mangrove Cuckoo** visited a Corpus Christi neighborhood 3–4 May (†, ph., RBe, m.ob.). Like all previous Texas records, it was of the *continentalis* race. Certainly not an expected offshore sighting, a Short-eared Owl flew past the *Kenedy* oil rig 29 Mar (AW). Rare but becoming expected on the U.T.C. as a migrant, 5 single Lesser Nighthawks were noted flying past oil rigs in *Brazoria* and *Galveston* 29 Mar–18 Apr (MN, SP). A Whip-poor-will in *Anderson* on the very late date of 31 May (JY) was curious; the species is not known to nest in ne. Texas.

One and possibly 2 Green Violet-ears were in Corpus Christi 5–8 May (†, ph., MC, B&JRI); Texas now has more than 30 records. A male Broad-billed Hummingbird visited a Ft. Davis feeder 24 Apr–6 Jun (†KB, m.ob.) for the 3rd consecutive year. At a less likely location, a female Broad-billed Hummingbird was at Zapata 3 May (†DT, MJ). The 4th Texas (first for spring) record of **Berylline Hummingbird** was that of a photographed bird in the Davis Mts. 25 May (†M&ME, MAd). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were again noted on the U.T.C. in late April/early May, but so far no nesting has been documented there (*fide*

RWe). In a repeat of recent seasons, one was in *Washington* 4 Mar+ (MEf). An out-of-range Blue-throated Hummingbird was in San Antonio 7 Apr (CCu). For decades, records of Lucifer Hummingbirds in Texas were confined to Big Bend, but in recent years they are showing up in the Davis Mts. with increasing frequency. This season ≤7 were at several Davis Mts. locations 25 Apr–31 May (KB, M&ME, MAd, LH). Another provided the first spring record for the Edwards Plateau, in *Gillespie* 14–23 May (ph., HS). A Black-chinned Hummingbird 6 Apr was new for *Brazos* (CD). A Costa's Hummingbird was described from Big Bend 19 May (B&JRI); if accepted by the TBRC it will provide the 7th Texas record. New for the South Plains was an Acorn Woodpecker in Lubbock 9 May (†PKI, BPh). There was a late Williamson's Sapsucker in the Davis Mts. 15 April (M&AC et al.); more unexpected was one in El Paso 19 Mar (JPa).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

Three reports of Greater Pewee in Big Bend and the Davis Mts. 19–21 May will be reviewed by the TBRC; there are only seven accepted Texas records. An *Empidonax* fitting the description of a Dusky Flycatcher was studied in Ft. Worth, well away from its normal migration route, 6–9 May (†MR, JWS). In a repeat of last year, a territorial male **Buff-breasted Flycatcher** appeared in the Davis Mts. 23 Apr (†, ph., KB, MAd, JKa). Stay tuned for the summer report for more news on this 2nd Texas record. A pair of Black Phoebes returned to Anzalduas 13 Apr (TBr), and 2 Say's Phoebes lingered in *Delta* until 6 Apr (MWh). Vermilion Flycatchers made quite a showing in nw. Texas: 4 birds were reported from Lubbock up to Palo Duro and Buffalo L. 6 Mar–29 May (m.ob.). A pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers was well-documented in Big Bend's Chisos Mts. 29 Apr+ (LyS, DF, m.ob.). Out-of-range Brown-crested Flycatchers were at Lubbock 20 Apr (†AF, ERo) and Ft. Davis 6 May (KB). Great Kiskadees continue to surprise us with their unexpected wanderings; reports came from Port O'Connor 23 Apr–6 May (JA, BrF), *Chambers* 26 Apr (BSu, BaL), and *Concan*, *Uvalde*, 1 May (JO, KE). Providing about the 10th state record, a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was at Falcon Dam 29 Apr (†, ph., MRo). Tropical Kingbirds returned to Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground 30 Apr (SS); another was seen and heard on the Bolivar Pen. 10 May (JSt, RMa). Tropical Kingbirds continue to be found in more locations in the L.R.G.V. and appear to be

expanding westward (m.ob.). A silent Couch's/Tropical Kingbird was in Ft. Davis 6 May (KB); neither species had been recorded there previously. The most far-flung Couch's Kingbird of the season was one at Quintana 5 May (CR, MG). Rose-throated Becards returned to Anzalduas 3 Mar+ but no signs of nesting were noted. We received a belated report of a male becard in Los Fresnos, *Cameron*, 27–29 Jan (ph. JRos, AH), the first documented in that county in well over half a century.

A Northern Shrike was discovered 20 Mar in *Denton* (LyB). Three White-eyed Vireos showed up in the Panhandle 17–30 Apr; there were also three reports of Bell's in that area 9 Apr–24 May. A pair of Black-capped Vireos returned again to their singular outpost in n.-cen. Texas in *Montague* in March (WM). Three reports of Plumbeous Vireo came from the Edwards Plateau, where its status is poorly documented. Two interesting Cassin's Vireo reports came in: one at Corpus Christi 19 Mar (ph. J&BRi) and another in Government Canyon, *Bexar*, 2 May (ML). A Blue-headed Vireo at Big Bend Ranch 28 Apr (JDa) was well to the w. of its expected migration route. Gallucci found a Hutton's Vireo near Kerrville again this year 24 Mar+. A Warbling Vireo in *Angelina* 18 Mar was unusually early (J&BP). A bit on the rare side were Philadelphia Vireos at Lubbock 28 Apr (KD) and at Buffalo L. 18 May (EK, RSc et al.). At the early edge of their arrival period, a Red-eyed Vireo showed up in *Brazos* 19 Mar (SBr, KK). A nice find was a Yellow-green Vireo at Port O'Connor 13 May (†BrF). A cooperative Black-whiskered Vireo sang at the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary 2–19 May, the first for *Brazoria* and about the 16th for Texas (†C&OB, RWe et al.).

JAYS THROUGH THRASHERS

A distressed-looking Blue Jay was at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village 14 May (KB). Blue Jays were confirmed nesting in the L.R.G.V. for the first time, at Edinburg (TBr). Two family groups of Brown Jays were seen occasionally in *Starr*; it is good to see continuing reports of this species at its only toehold in Texas. At least one of the Black-billed Magpies in the n. Panhandle from the winter season was noted as late as early April (MAd). Another was briefly described from *Gray* 24 Apr (TGi), about three counties s. of the *Hansford* site. Fish Crows were below the dam at L. Tawakoni, *Rains/Van Zandt*, 5 Apr and 25 May, the farthest to date upriver on the Sabine (MWh, BSt). Tree Swallows were detected nesting in *Harrison* for the second year in a row (GLu,

EdR); substantially farther to the sw. was a pair thought to be nesting at Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell*, 14 May+ (RPi). A migrant Violet-green Swallow was a good find 11 May at Buffalo L. (BH, LG). A first *Dallas* Cave Swallow was at S.S.W.T.P. 14 May (MWh); others were at L. Tawakoni 20 & 25 May (BSt, MWh). Frenz made a thorough survey of *Brazos* 25 Apr and encountered 84 Cave Swallow nests; there had only been two previous nesting reports there.

White-breasted Nuthatches were confirmed breeding near Granger, *Williamson*, 2 May, when young were noted (TFen). We had three late Red-breasted Nuthatch reports the first week of May, the southernmost in *Bastrop* (BrF) and the latest 5 May in *Smith* (PBa). Two Winter Wrens were very late: at Big Bend 10–11 May (NBl et al.) and in Amarillo, *Randall*, 23 May (RSc). *McMullen* is a bit out of the previously known range of the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher; Eubanks had one there 8 May, which may represent a new breeding location. Two rare thrushes for the Panhandle were encountered: a Veery in Amarillo, *Randall*, 8 May (EK, RSc) and a Gray-cheeked at Buffalo L. 14–24 May (RSc, KS). Well-described Gray-cheekeds were at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend 20 Apr (DO) and at Panther Junction 8 May (MF). Nesting Clay-colored Robins were reported once again at Anzalduas and Santa Ana (m.ob.). A Sage Thrasher in Big Bend 11 May was the latest ever for the park (ML).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

After the 1 May storm, 21 warbler species were detected in the cen. Brazos Valley. Substantial inland tallies included 50 Tennessees in Longview 28 Apr and again 2 May (GLu et al.), 50 Magnolias 2 May in Nacogdoches (DW), and 45 Black-throated Greens 1–2 May in w. *Bexar* (ML). Launching into a long list of interesting warblers, we had: Blue-winged at Big Bend 11 May (RHe); Golden-winged at Lubbock 23 Apr (AF), Amarillo 2 May (RSc), and Balmorhea 20 May (RD); Tropical Parulas in *Calhoun*, 5 Mar (PH, BrF), at High I. 12 Mar (DVe), 3 on the Devil's R., *Val Verde*, in late Mar (TG, EB), at Hill Country S.N.A. 6 Apr–21 May (ML et al.), and at Big Bend's Sam Nail Ranch 19–20 May (DKa et al.); Black-throated Blue at Lubbock 23 Apr (AF), the Davis Mts. 26 Apr & 18 May (LyB, B&MW), and Big Bend (Panther Junction) 18–21 May (m.ob.); Townsend's at High I. 23–25 Apr (KeH, KG et al.); at least 11 Hermits in the Chisos Mts. 20 Apr–13 May and one in the Davis Mts. 23 Apr (MAd, KB); Blackburnian in the Davis Mts. 22–23 May (WF); Yellow-throated at Big Bend 18 May (RD) and Midland 29 May (DK); Prairie at Lubbock 13 Apr (JB); Palms at Big Bend Ranch 28–29 Apr (JDa) and Lubbock 10 May (RKO); a Cerulean at Dallas in early May (KC) and a remarkable 9 in *Bastrop* 3 May (BrF); Prothonotaries at Lubbock 8 Apr (AF), Panther Junction 16 Apr (MF), Balmorhea 20–26 Apr (BBE, TJ), and Sam



Yet another amazing find on an offshore oil platform was Texas' seventh Brown Noddy. This apparent subadult was captured on film the second day of its 27 April–1 May visit to the platform. Photograph by Alan Wormington

Nail Ranch 22 Apr (DO); three Worm-eatings at Big Bend 16–28 Apr (m.ob.), one at Lubbock 2 May (RKO), and one at Ft. Worth 4 May (MR); Swainson's at V.C.D.B. 2 May (MR) and Buffalo L. 5 May (BiMc, RSc, PT); Ovenbird at El Paso 1 May (JZ); Mourning at Buffalo L. 24 May (KS); a surprising 8 Hoodeds in the w. third of the state 20 Apr–17 May (m.ob.); and Painted Redstarts at Marathon 9–10 Mar (ATe) and El Paso 10 Mar (JZ, MS) and 25–27 Mar (SH, JPa). Other interesting warbler reports (mostly non-migrants) included a singing Colima Warbler refound in the Davis Mts. 7 May+ (KB, Jka), a repeat of last summer's record. A weird-looking warbler at Big Bend 7 May was variously described as a possible Tropical x Northern Parula hybrid or, strangely, a Tropical Parula x Crescent-chested Warbler (RW, JMu). A Golden-cheeked Warbler 2 Mar at Ft. Hood (*fide* JC) tied the earliest arrival date. Two reports of Connecticut Warbler, in *Brazoria* and at Austin, both 6 May, were written up for the TBRC (JLe, AS); there are only seven accepted records for the state, despite many undocumented reports. A **Gray-crowned Yellowthroat** singing cooperatively at Santa Ana 24 Mar+ was thoroughly documented (m.ob.); there are only about six well-documented records since 1900. Freeman and Hockey heard an unfamiliar warbler song at Ft. Lancaster, *Crockett*, 6 Apr; Freeman's tape-recording is suggestive of Fan-tailed Warbler, not previously reported (or even suspected) in the state. The Rufous-capped Warbler banded last summer at Devil's R. returned this year in March, singing on territory, and was joined by a second bird 12 May (*fide* JKa). Another was at Green Gulch in Big Bend 1 May (RW). A Scarlet Tanager was out-of-place in the Davis Mts. 29 Apr (M&ME); six reports from interior e. Texas were more than usual.

SPARROWS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

A Cassin's Sparrow was photographed in *Delta* 10 May (MWh), 150 mi e. of its normal range, providing a first county record. East Texas produced many more reports of Clay-colored Sparrows this season, with small flocks detected in *Gregg*, *Harrison*, *Hunt*, *Nacogdoches*, and *Smith*, 25 Apr–26 May (m.ob.); one also showed up inexplicably on an oil rig off *Brazoria* 24 Apr (SP). A male Lark Bunting probably provided a first *Calhoun* record 15 Apr–7 May (JA, BrF, PH). An unfortunate Baird's Sparrow was a road-kill in Big Bend 25 Apr (LE, * to Big Bend); there were also single reports in May at Rio

Grande Village and Ft. Davis (RW, JMu, KB). One to two Henslow's Sparrows were studied by many in *Brazos* 13–31 Mar (KK et al.); the latest reported in e. Texas was in *Montgomery* 1 Apr (Dve) and a great find was the Panhandle's first in *Oldham* 6 May (+ EK, RSc, BaP). Singing Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows lingered to 21 May at Anahuac (JSt, PM). Seaside Sparrows were confirmed as still being present in salt-marsh at the mouth of the Rio Grande at Boca Chica (JA). A Swamp Sparrow in *Freestone* 20 May was late for e. Texas (Pba). Other late sparrows included a White-throated 22 May in Nacogdoches (DW) and a Harris's 23 Apr in Waco (EGW). A rare Golden-crowned Sparrow visited Levelland, *Hockley*, 2 May (YLeS). A Pyrrhuloxia was on the U.T.C. at Quintana on the weird date of 30 May (CB). A Blue Grosbeak in *Angelina* 26 Mar (NBi) was early, as was a Painted Bunting 28 Mar in *Smith* (AB) and an even earlier Indigo Bunting 4 Mar in *Marion* (TW). There were certainly more Lazuli Buntings this season eastward; they were "too numerous to count" (over two dozen sightings) in n.-cen. Texas and there were three reports in e. Texas in *Austin*, *Cass*, and *Jones*, most between 26 Apr–3 May.

A collection of 1200 Dickcissels in *Freestone* 8 May was quite a concentration (Pba). Two Rusty Blackbirds in Lubbock 9–18 May (RKO et al.) were a good find. Common Grackles made a couple of unusual appearances in w. Texas, with a group of 40 in Balmorhea 6 Apr (KB, BGi) and a lone bird at Big Bend 21 Apr (PAb, MR). Despite being abundant throughout most of Texas, a pair of Great-tailed Grackles in Lufkin 26 May provided a surprising first *Angelina* record (NBi, LB, GG). Only the 3rd for the Panhandle or South Plains was a Bronzed Cowbird in Lubbock 29–30 Apr (RKO et al.). A Hooded Oriole snuck a little far up the coast to Tivoli, *Refugio*, 6 May (BrF). Quite unexpected, a male Red Crossbill visited a Kerrville feeder 12 May (JHo).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

Masked Duck at Santa Ana in April and May, Lewis's Woodpecker in Canyon in May, Connecticut Warbler at Nacogdoches in April, Red-faced Warbler in Big Bend in May, Yellow-eyed Junco in Big Bend in April, Blue Bunting at Falcon Dam in April, and Shiny Cowbird in *Brazoria* in April.

Cited Observers (Subregional Editors in boldface): Peggy Abbott (PAb), Peggy Acord, Mark Adams (MAAd), Kitty Anding, Mary Lee Archer, Fred Armstrong, Nina & Eddie Arnold, John Arvin, Terry Baldwin, Susan Bame, Peter

Barnes (Pba), Keith Bartels (KBa), Bob Behrstock (BBe), Dick Benoit (DBe), Robert Benson (RBe), Sue & Billie Bernard, Nancy Bird (NBi), Lorie Black, Lytle Blankenship (LyB), Nick Block (NBi), Bill Bourbon, Sarah Bourbon (SBo), Peter Boynton, David Bradford, Scott Brandes (SBr), Eric Breeden, Charles & Olivia Brower, John Brujes, Tim Brush (TBr), **Kelly Bryan** (Trans-Pecos: P.O. Box 786, Ft. Davis, TX 79734, kelly.bryan@tpwd.state.tx.us), David Bryant, Frank Bumgardner, Roger Burrows, Alan Byboth, Mary Campbell, Charlie Clark, Gail & Scott Cole, Fred Collins, Tom & Sherry Collins, Warren Conway, Arlie & **Mel Cooksey** (South Texas: 15825 Socorro Loop, Corpus Christi, TX 78418, cybrbrdr@electrotex.com), John Cornelius, Kelly Cotten, Merry Cox, Cameron Cox (CCo), Carolyn Cuthbertson (CCu), Jon Dale (JDa), Louis Debetaz, Bonnie Deming, Robin Diaz, Cindie Dillard, Sandy Dillard, Ken Dixon, Steven Donovan, Gerald Duhon, Joan Dziezyc, Marc & Maryann Eastman, Mark Eaton, Kim Eckert, Marcia Effinger (MEf), Victor Emanuel, Rosemary English, Ted Eubanks, Lee Evans, Tim Fennell (TFen), Dixie Feuerbacher, Dean Fisher, Tom Fisher, Mark Flippo, Anthony Floyd, Susan Forster, Wendy Forster, Bobbye Frazier (BoF), Brush Freeman (BrF), **Bert Frenz** (BeF) (East Texas: 221 Rainbow Dr., PMB 12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021, bert@bafrenz.com), Tony Gallucci, John Gee (JGe), Brian Gibbons (BGi), Karen Gilbert, Tom Gill (TGi), Graham Gips, Michael Gray, Georgette Guernsey, Leo Gustafson, Ron & Carol Gutberlet (RGu), Jim Hailey (JiH), Jeff Hanson, Ken Hartman (KeH), Audrey Harvey, Jill Haukos, David & Linda Hedges, Matt Heindel, David Heinicke, Rhandy Helton, Derek Hill, Petra Hockey, Sally Homan (SHo), John Hoogerheide (JHo), Eric Horvath, Bill Howe, Rich Hoyer, Don Hunter (DHu), David Hurt, Jill Hutchinson, Marshall Iliff, Jimmy Jackson, Denis James, Wiley James, Tom Johnson, Marlin Jones, Durrell Kapan (DKa), John Karges (JKa), Greg Keiran, Donna Kelly, Phillip Kite (PKi), Jane Kittleman, Karl Kosciuch, Rich Kostecke (RKO), Ed Kutac, Larry & Nancy LaBrant, Bob Landry, Greg Lasley, Jason Leifester, Ted Levin, Cathy Liles, Mark Lockwood, Sonny Long, Mike Lovell (Mil), Al Lozano, Scott Luneau, Guy & Joan Luneau (G & Lu), Bill Lupardis (BLu), Barry Lyon (BaL), John MacFarlane (JMac), Wayne Machado, Jeanette Martin, Terry Maxwell, Richard Mayfield (RMA), Steve Mays (SMA), Tony McBride (TMC), Guy McCaskie, Patrick McGuffy, Debra McKee (DMC), Bill McKinney (BiMc), Brad McKinney (BrMc), Chris Merkord, Don & Joann Merritt (D & JMe), Wayne Meyer, Resch Mike, Narca Moore-Craig, Tom Morgan, John Muldrow (JMu), Derek Muschalek (DMu), Chuck Naiser (ChN), Craig Nance, D. Nelson, Michael Nelson, Larry Nesdesitt, Beverly Nichols, F. Niedermeyer, Noreen O'Brien, Dale Ohl, Brent Ortego, June

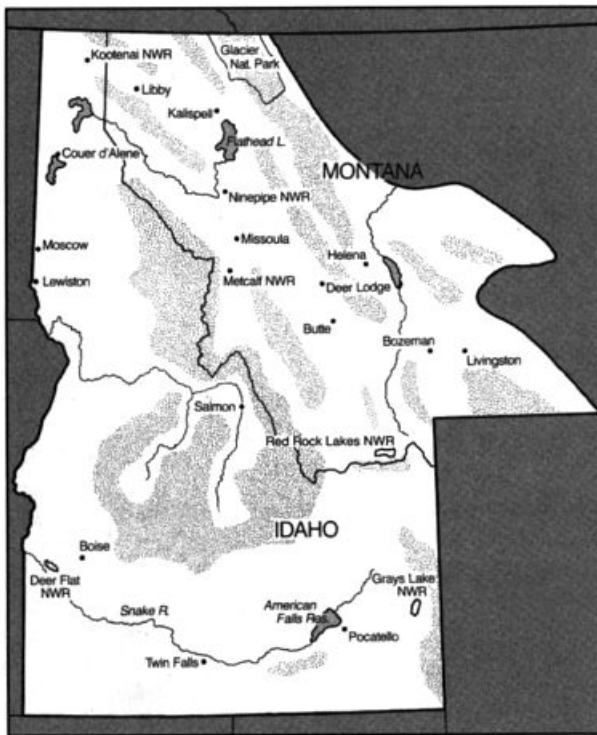
Osborne (JOs), Jim Paton (JPa), Dick Peake, Joyce Penny, Stacy Peterson, Bill Phelan (BPh), Barrett Pierce (BaP), Jason Pike, Tom Pincelli, Bill Pinkston, Randy Pinkston (RPi), Jimmie & Bob Putnam, Ross Rasmussen, Ellen Ratoosh (ERa), Eddie Ray (EdR), Jo Redden (JRe), Martin Reid, John & Barbara Ribble (J&BRi), Marla Riddlespurger, Cecilia Riley, Will Risser (WRi), Mike Rogers (MRo), Ellen Roots (ERo), John Rosford (JRos), Forest Rowland, Karen Russell, Billy Sandifer (BSa), Laura Sare (LSa), David Sarkozi, John & Barbara Scannell, Rick Schaefer (RiS), John Schmidt, Heidi Schulz, Georgina Schwartz (GSc), Marcy Scott, Rosemary Scott

(RSc), **Willie Sekula** (Central Texas: 7063 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113-2627, wsekula@the-cia.net), **Ken Seyffert** (Panhandle: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), Cliff Shackelford, Bob Shackleton, J.W. Sifford (JWS), David Sikes, Leanna Smith (LeS), Lynn Smith (LyS), Aletha Snowden, Sylvestre Sorola, John Sproul, Sara St. Clair, Bruce Stevenson, Jim Stevenson (JSt), Cliff Stogner (CSt), Bob Stone (BSt), Rose Marie Stortz, Bob Sundstrom, Glenn Swartz, Ken Sztraky (KSz), Carol Tashjian, Kent Taylor, Rick Taylor, Alan Tennant (ATe), Rob Thacker, Ann Toal, Bob & Inez Triebensee, David Trochlell, Peggy Trosper, Donald Verser (DVe), Darrell Vollert, Gary Waggenerman,

Matt Wagner, Glen Walbek, Tom Walker, Valerie Walmsley, Joann Ward (JWa), Ro Wauer, Richard Webster (RiW), **Ron Weeks** (RWe)(UTC: 110 Indian Warrior, Lake Jackson, TX 77566, igarapet@brazospport.cc.tx.us), Carol Wells, Bill & Mickey West, Ed Wetzel, Matt Whitbeck (MWB), **Matt White** (MWh; N.C. Texas: 882 Hwy 50, Campbell, TX 75422, MWHITE@ssisd.net), E.G. White-Swift (EGW), John Whittle (JWh), Sue Wiedenfeld (SWie), Frances Williams, Greer Willis, Jennifer Wilson (JeW), Jack Windsor (JWin), David Wolf, Mimi Wolf, Alan Wormington, Jim Yantis, Barry Zimmer, Bill Zuzevich.



idaho-western montana



David Trochlell

1931 Tallwood Lane
Boise, Idaho 83706
(trochle@cyberhighway.net)

Spring 2000 was decidedly mild, featuring warm and dry weather in March and April, and average conditions through May. Most low-elevation areas were already snow-free because of the warm winter, and runoff from last winter's average to high mountain snowpack peaked early. The main theme of the season was the early arrival of waterfowl and other early spring migrants, some by as much as three or four

weeks. Like last year, Camas National Wildlife Refuge produced a tantalizing list of vagrant warblers and other birds.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (American Falls Res., by American Falls, ID); C.N.W.R. (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID); L.M.N.W.R. (Lee Metcalf N.W.R., Ravalli, MT).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Especially rare in spring, a Yellow-billed Loon was in *Fremont*, ID, 21 May (KDu, KH). Sightings of American White Pelicans continue to increase in the Region's far north, with ≤ 18 tallied in *Kootenai*, ID, 19–29 Apr (LH, RY) and one in *Salmon*, ID,

28–29 May (HR). Reports of extralimital egrets included single Greats at L.M.N.W.R. 14–21 Apr and 18 May (WT) and *Sanders*, MT, 3 May (WL), and a Snowy in *Salmon*, ID, 13 May (HR). Cattle Egrets also wandered in Idaho, with 3 each in *Gooding* 18 Apr (KF) and *Camas* 27 May (PWP). The Green Heron that stopped at C.N.W.R. 20 May (RM) was a good find; they are less than annual in the Region. White-faced Ibises are rare but increasing in the Region's far north, so 1–6 at L.M.N.W.R. 11 Apr–18 May (WT), two in *Nez Perce*, ID, 4 May (DBe), and 19 in *Broadwater*, MT, 27 May (DS) were particularly noteworthy.

Tundra Swans visited Idaho in unusually high numbers, with 1571 in *Kootenai* 18 Mar (LH) and 500 in *Blaine* 18 Mar (DR). A Mute Swan in *Jefferson* 18–20 Mar (BD, D&EF) followed a recent trend of sightings in e. Idaho. Snow Geese staged in impressive numbers again this year, with an estimated 50,000 in *Jefferson*, ID, 3–18 March (m.ob.). Ross's Geese, usually reported in small numbers, migrated through in force, with flocks of 125 in *Payette*, ID, 8 Apr (CB, RLR), at least 69 in *Fremont*, ID, 9 Apr (CW), and 30 in *Flathead*, MT, 2 May (DC).

Reports of Eurasian Wigeons almost tripled those of last year, with totals of 16 in Idaho and 10 in Montana. A Common Teal at L.M.N.W.R. 28 Mar–20 Apr and a Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal there 15–20 Apr (WT) were rare finds. Larger than usual concentrations of ducks also staged at several locations, including 811 Northern Pintails in *Kootenai*, ID, 18 Mar (LH), 140 Canvasbacks in *Blaine*, ID, 7 Mar (MCr), >100 Canvasbacks in *Park*, MT, 4 Apr (JP), and >400 Ruddy Ducks in *Ada*, ID, 21 Apr (RLR, DT). A pair of Greater Scaup at