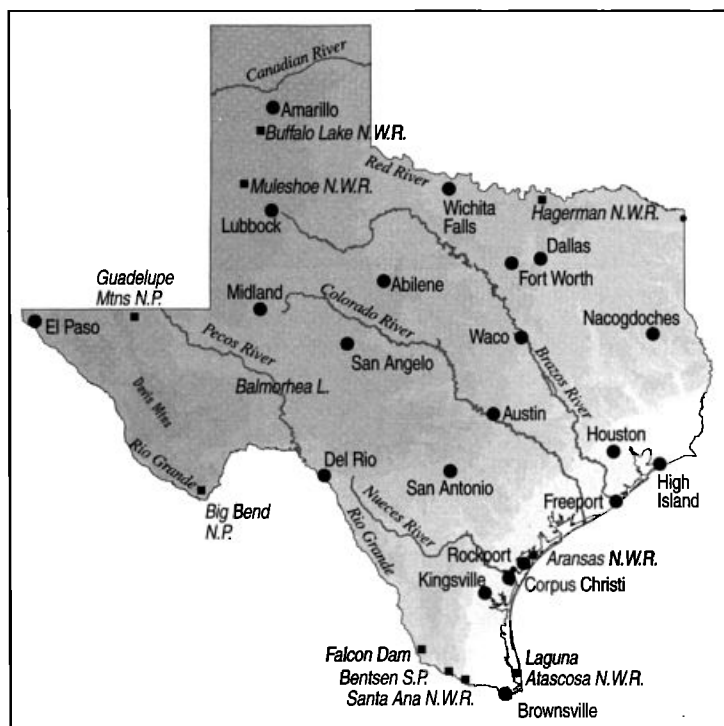


Texas



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Simply put, it was the rare observer who *did not* think this was the most amazing fall season they had ever seen. As Willie Sekula put it, this year will set the benchmark against which all future fall seasons will be measured. The brutal heat and drought of the summer stretched into September; a drought-attributed early migration was much in evidence. Finally, a sustained rainy pattern set up over the lower three-fourths of the state, which broke the drought and resulted in THE October fall-out: a strong early cold front pushed through on 5–7 October and was overridden by Pacific and Gulf moisture, especially from the remnants of Hurricane *Keith*. Temperatures were 15–30° F colder than normal for the next several days, cold enough in the Trans-Pecos to result in a serious ice storm 8–9 October. Many reporters talked in terms normally reserved for the spring migration on the coast: birds were “dripping out of the trees.” Numbers of the most abundant

migrants such as Indigo Bunting and Nashville Warbler were “uncountable.” Although creating a tremendous opportunity for birders, it was harsh on some species, especially swallows.

Even before the drought broke and the migrants fell from the sky, we were seeing hints of a major montane invasion. A long-anticipated push of Pinyon Jays was a welcome event in west Texas, but several other species were also on the move. Lewis’s Woodpeckers, in particular, were at their perambulatory best. Most curious were some of the less-likely travelers, such as Juniper Titmice and Cassin’s Finches. By the end of the season we had compiled some seriously weird sightings of these invaders.

The TexBirds Internet list saw nearly 2000 messages posted during the four-month period. The present report is compiled from the sightings of nearly 500 observers who encountered, *en toto*, at least that number of species. We continued to receive intriguing reports from “oil-rig sitters” off *Kenedy* and *Calhoun* as part of Louisiana State University’s Migration Over the Gulf project. From more routine localities, in a prime season such as

this one, we must pass over many records that are “somewhat late” or “a bit early” or only locally rare. Reports of each of the Texas sub-regional editors are good sources for all such records; readers might consider contacting them for more details on a given area.

My long-time colleague and friend Greg Lasley is going to be focusing on some other projects; he has been at the helm of this Texas column for 17+ years, and is credited with almost single-handedly rebuilding the Texas Bird Records Committee into the rock-solid organization it is today. His influence on Texas birding and bird records keeping is immeasurable. It is with great affection that I acknowledge his contributions to our long-term writing partnership in this forum. He will undoubtedly continue to be a force of innovation and a voice for rigorous documentation...and now he may even get to go birding more!

Abbreviations: G.M.N.P. (Guadalupe Mts N.P.); HMANA (Hawk Migration Association of North America); L.R.G.V. (Lower Rio Grande Valley); S.S.W.T.P. (Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant); TBRC (Texas Bird Records Committee); TPWD (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks and wildlife refuges, etc Anzalduas, Balcones Canyonlands, Big Bend, Brazoria, Buffalo Lake, Choke Canyon, Hagerman, Hueco Tanks, Inks Lake, Packery Channel, Richland Creek, Sabal Palm, San Bernard, Santa Ana, Taylor Lakes, Village Creek.

Loons Through Vultures

November 10 marked the arrival of two Red-throated Loons, one at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* (MWh, Bst) and another at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, that remained until 19 Nov and provided a first *Hudspeth* record (BZ et al.) Another w. Texas Red-throated was at Imperial Res., *Pecos*, 23–30 Nov (NBI, m.ob.) A Pacific Loon was at the latter location on the same dates; another on Tradinghouse Res., *McLennan*, 15 Nov was joined by a 2nd 20 Nov (JMu). A first Clark’s Grebe for the South Plains was at Lubbock 19 Nov (AF, RKO, BRA)

On 18 Oct, Wormington reported the season’s only Brown Booby from his *Kenedy* oil rig. A Least Bittern was notable at Balmorhea S.P., *Reeves* (DO, A&HR). Single Reddish Egrets were in deep e. Texas in *Rusk* 15 Sep (DWe) and in w. Texas at L. Balmorhea 15–28 Oct and Imperial Res. 10–25 Nov (MAd et al.) In *El Paso*, where the species is casual, a

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Ft. Bliss 20 Sep (BZ). A Glossy Ibis at L. Tawakoni 12 Oct provided a *Rains* first (ph. MWh). E. Texas was widely invaded by Wood Storks (m.ob.); an impressive 500 were at Cooper L. 15 Aug (MWh), and 300+ were at a drying lake in *Bastrop* 31 Aug (BrF). The Hazel Bazemore Hawkwatch tallied 36,688 Turkey Vultures, more than triple the total of any previous year (JSi, HMANA).

Waterfowl Through Raptors

A great find were 3 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in *Hockley* 4 Aug (LeS), only the 2nd recorded in the Panhandle. Almost as rare were 8 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at L. Balmorhea 26 Aug (MAd), providing a 4th Trans-Pecos record. On 28 Nov at L. Rita Blanca, *Hartley*, Mike Austin picked out a single Brant from a mass of over 300,000 geese. Two Tundra Swans were at Midland 8 Nov (D&JMer) and 2 more (or the same) were a couple of counties to the n in *Lynn* 18 Nov. Among the rarer duck reports were single Greater Scaup near Alpine, *Brewster*, 24 Nov (SWe) and in *Hockley* 5 Nov, single White-winged Scoters in *Briscoe* 20–21 Oct (DZ et al.) and in *Hockley* 5–6 Nov (m ob.), and a Common Merganser at Inks L., *Burnet*, 28 Nov (DaB). At least 6 Surf Scoters were reported from 29 Oct–25 Nov in the Trans-Pecos, where the species is casual. *Delta* got its first Surf Scoter 18–19 Nov (ph. MWh, MRe). Four Long-tailed Ducks were reported in n Texas: 2 at Longview, *Harrison* 13 Nov. (GLu), one at S.S.W.T.P., *Dallas*, 21 Nov (BG et al), and one at L. Tawakoni, *Rains*, 29 Nov (MWh).

The Smith Point Hawkwatch racked up record numbers, with a seasonal total of just under 40,000 raptors, including 46 Swallow-tailed Kites Aug–mid-Sep, a fine flight of 2501 Mississippi Kites 31 Aug, and a peak Broad-winged Hawk movement of 18,000+ on 16 Sep (DBe et al.). Hazel Bazemore had modest results by their standards, with a season total 407,282 hawks, including 4567 Mississippi Kites, 396,763 Broad-winged Hawks, and 2084 Swainson's Hawks. Peak movements of Broad-winged were 16–19 Sep (111,500 on the latter date) and 27 Sep–1 Oct (over 10,000 each day; JSi, PBe et al., HMANA).

A Swallow-tailed Kite provided a first for *El Paso* 31 Jul–10 Aug (B&WF et al.). *Limestone* had its 2nd Swallow-tailed 30 Aug–2 Sep near Mexia (DSc, JMac). The first modern fall reports of White-tailed Kite in ne. Texas involved singles in *Delta* 19 Aug (MWh) and *Harrison* 30 Sep (ERy). An imm. Northern Goshawk was seen (and described) briefly in *Hockley* 26 Nov (Rko, † to TBRC). A Harris's

Hawk was well to the n. of its expected range at Richland Cr., *Freestone*, 15 Oct (PeB), a first county record. Swainson's Hawks moved s. in pulses during brief respites in the heavy rains of early Oct. Sizable flights were on 6 Oct, 2500 in *McLennan*; 7 Oct, 1600 in *Williamson*; 8 Oct, 1600 in *McLennan* and *Coryell*, 650 at Balcones Canyonlands, *Burnet*; and 12 Oct, 1584 at Hazel Bazemore, *Nueces*. A big surprise was a migrant Zone-tailed Hawk at L. Tawakoni 21 Sep († MWh), perhaps one of the northernmost for Texas.

Rails Through Terns

A Black Rail turned up in Lubbock 8 Oct (AF, ER); this is an extremely rare (and hard to detect) migrant through Texas. I bet that the single Whooping Crane that stopped briefly in *Terry* on the South Plains 4 Nov (VG) was the same bird found among Sandhills at Imperial Res., *Pecos*, 25 Nov (C&CH). A survey through the w. Panhandle turned up 39 Mountain Plovers in *Deaf Smith* 3 Aug (LSg); the wintering flock near Granger L., *Williamson*, was first detected 4 Oct (BrF) and peaked at 72 on 4 Nov (TF); 4 more were in *San Patricio* 8 Oct (TCa). A Northern Jacana was on the Mexican bank of the Rio Grande s. of Mission, *Hidalgo*, 21–22 Oct (MKI, JKi, BSa). There were four notable Red Knot reports: 2 in Lubbock 22–24 Aug (Rko, JB); one on Sam Rayburn Res., *Angelina*, 8 Sep (first in 20 yr; DW, RT); another at L. Balmorhea 18 Sep (MAd); and one at Taylor Lakes, *Donley*, 22 Sep (KS). Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Midland 16 Sep were a rare find (FR). At least 18 Red-necked Phalaropes were reported, a good showing. The rarer Red Phalarope was at Hagerman 13 Oct (*vide* WM).

Five records constituted a veritable flood of Long-tailed Jaegers: 2 at Ft. Bliss 31 Aug–1 Sep (BJ, BZ et al.) provided a county first; another was at L. Tawakoni, *Van Zandt*, 11 Sep (†MWh) and singles flew past the oil rigs 25 Sep and 2 Oct off *Calhoun* (BG) and 3 Nov off *Kenedy* (AW). The phrases "Laughing Gull" and "Panther Junction (Big Bend)" are ones I did not expect to use in the same sentence; yet 3 of these gulls were there 31 Oct (BiB). A Little Gull was detected at L. Tawakoni 4 Nov (MWh). Another Little Gull and a Mew Gull were marvelous finds at Imperial Res., *Pecos*, 19 Nov (MAd, BG), the former a first for the Trans-Pecos, the latter about the 3rd. Cooper Lake's Black-headed Gull returned for its 6th winter (18. & 26 Nov; MWh, PeB) and the Finnish-banded Black-headed returned 30 Nov to Village Creek for its 4th winter (ph. MR). Four California Gulls were detected in the Trans-Pecos 28 Oct–30 Nov; 3 more were

at Galveston in Nov (m.ob.). Single Thayer's Gulls were at Cooper L. 7 Oct (MWh) and Galveston 17 Nov–13 Dec (J & BRi, MRe; vt to TBRC). Adding to the list of rare larids in w Texas was an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at Imperial Res. 9 Nov (ErC). How about at least 46 Sabine's Gulls scattered across the state at 15 or more locations 18 Sep–12 Nov? This total clearly exceeded any previous annual total, up to 20 Sabine's on Red Bluff Res. 14 Oct was the largest concentration (ErC). A rare Caspian Tern was at Lubbock 21 Oct. (AF) preceded by an equally rare Common Tern there 8–9 Aug (Rko, PK).

Doves Through Woodpeckers

Lamb in the Panhandle, and *Bell* in cen. Texas had first records of Eurasian Collared-Doves ...ho-hum. A probable White-tipped Dove was more exciting in Austin 5 Sep (RF) A **Mangrove Cuckoo** appeared 20 Aug in the same Corpus Christi yard where one was present in May 2000 (RBe). For anyone who has watched anis in flight, it is amazing that they even migrate; imagine Gibbon's surprise when a Groove-billed landed for a few minutes on his oil rig off *Calhoun* 19 Sep! Flammulated Owls took it on the chin in the ice storm of early Oct in w. Texas: 11 were found dead in *Brewster*, *Culbertson*, *Jeff Davis*, and *Presidio* 8–11 Oct. Flammulateds were clearly on the move. One was seen repeatedly in Lubbock 27 Sep–8 Nov (m.ob.) and 2 were in *Bailey* 14 Oct (AF, MCA); an injured bird was in *Wharton* 5 Nov (*vide* RWe), and fresh remains of an apparent Flammulated were detected 20 Oct on the oil rig off *Kenedy* (RWR, AW). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was observed daily in n. *Lamb* 14–17 Oct (CDL, † to TBRC), only the 2nd for the Panhandle. Not faring as well were 2 dead saw-whets recovered in a residential yard in Amarillo, *Potter*, 30 Oct and 4 Nov (E&AC, *TCWC; 3rd and 4th Panhandle records) Yet another was found moribund in ne. El Paso 24 Oct, rehabilitated, and released in early Nov (*vide* JPa). A Long-eared Owl at Balcones Canyonlands 9 Nov provided a first refuge record and a rare Austin sighting (BRe) A Lesser Nighthawk 9 Nov at Quintana furnished one of few U.T.C. fall records (RWe) A road-killed Whip-poor-will was found in the Panhandle in *Childress* 5 Nov (AF, MCA), an exceptionally late occurrence.

Three possible Vaux's Swifts were reported to the TBRC: 2 were at Ft. Bliss 30 Sep and one was still there the next day (RR, JPa); another was at Ft. Hancock, *Hudspeth*, 29 Oct (MA) Ohl kept tabs on a Broad-billed Hummingbird that lingered in Alpine 10–24 Sep. A Green Violet-ear was in Corpus Christi 21 Aug–3 Sep

(ph. RBe, †MCo). A Blue-throated, always a rarity in the L.R.G.V., was at Santa Ana 22–23 Oct (MKJ, BBa, R&NBo). Balmorhea S.P. had its first Lucifer Hummingbird 6 Aug–4 Sep (TJ et al.); others were in the Davis Mts. until 20 Oct. There was a small “invasion” of Calliope Hummingbirds. Several were seen in the Panhandle and High Plains where they have become annual, but singles provided new county records in e. Texas in *Nacogdoches* 6–16 Oct (CEL) and *Hunt* 25 Oct (ph. MWh). On the U.T.C., a Calliope was at a Sugarland feeder 28 Sep– 4 Oct (MkS, NBl). An imm. male was reported at Del Rio 20 Oct (SSo) and another was at Wimberley, *Hays*, 22 Nov (TMa). In their regular range, Calliopes lingered to the end of Nov at El Paso (BZ).

The Lewis’s Woodpecker invasion began with a one-day wonder 16 Sep at G.M.N.P. (SWe, JWo et al.). The same or another returned there in mid-Oct, and then the flood was on. At least 16 were reported at 14 localities from El Paso to Ft. Stockton in Nov. One showed up in Midland 23 Nov (FR) and another sketched in *Dallas* was only about the 5th record for that region (KN). Most energetic were single Lewis’s that made it all the way to Choke Canyon, *McMullen*, 27 Nov–mid-Dec (BD et al.), and another discovered at Chaparral, *Dimmit* 7 Nov and re-sighted on their CBC 15 Dec (CRu et al.). The latter, by a few miles, is probably the world’s southernmost record of the species! A Red-naped Sapsucker at Packery Channel 23 Nov provided a first Padre I. record (MCo). Williamson’s Sapsuckers staged their own irruption into the lowlands of w. Texas, with many reports in *El Paso*, *Culberson*, and *Jeff Davis*. A Downy Woodpecker was at El Paso, where the species is casual, 24 Nov (RR).

Flycatchers Through Nutcrackers

Western Wood-Pewees were seen and heard on w. Galveston I. 27–29 Sep (JSt) and at nearby Quintana, *Brazoria*, 6–7 Oct (MA, C&OB, TCo), providing only the 3rd and 4th U.T.C. records. Shackelford found late Eastern Wood-Pewees at Village Creek, *Hardin*, 25 Nov and at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson*, the next day. The nesting pair of **Buff-breasted Flycatchers** in the Davis Mts. Preserve were around until 20 Aug (KB et al.). Most impressive was a late Hammond’s 11 Nov at Hueco Tanks, *El Paso* (BG, AW), and probable Dusky Flycatchers in s. Texas at Anzalduas, *Hidalgo*, 14 Sep (†JA) and at San Ygnacio, *Zapata*, 10 Oct (AW). A Gray Flycatcher was in Waco, *McLennan*, 2–3 Sep (first county record; CHal), another was in *Karnes* 11 Oct (DM). Out-of-range Black Phoebes included singles in *Bailey* 5 Aug (AF,

RKo), *Donley* 4–9 Sep (ph. BPi), *Calhoun* 17 Oct (BrF), and *Cameron* 23 Sep (BBeh). Say’s Phoebes moved as far as *Jefferson* (17 Sep, JWh), *Chambers* (30 Oct, BG), and *Harrison* (22 Oct, ERy, GLu et al.). A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers at Richland Cr. 28 Nov probably represent a first *Freestone* record (PeB). Wauer encountered 3 Dusky-capped Flycatchers at Boot Spring in the Chisos Mts. 6 Sep. Two Great Kiskadees at Imperial Res. 23–30 Nov were new for *Pecos* (NBl, m.ob.). Perhaps the season’s stellar find was the state’s 2nd **Piratic Flycatcher**, photographed in eye-popping detail on the *Kenedy* oil rig 21–22 Oct (RWR, AW). Tropical Kingbirds may have passed a milestone in *Cameron*, where McKinney estimates they now outnumber Couch’s; a family group of Tropicals was conspicuous at Big Bend’s Cottonwood Campground in early Aug (m.ob.). Unaccountable were 3 Couch’s in Lubbock 7–23 Sep (m.ob.). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Ft. Bliss, where the species is casual, 4 Aug and 2 Sep. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was well-photographed on the *Kenedy* oil rig 1 Nov (AW).

A White-eyed Vireo in Davis Mts. S.P. 21–22 Oct provided a new county record (KB). Identification of Plumbeous and Cassin’s Vireos seems to be “in vogue” right now, and there is much skepticism about these reports at the same time. Are we being too quick to identify these species? For example, Cassin’s Vireo reports outnumbered Plumbeous 5:2 in cen. and e. Texas, which seems far-fetched. Single

Plumbeous were studied at length in San Antonio 22 Sep–4 Oct (KBa) and in e. *Travis* 14–16 Sep (BrF), and a bird in *Nacogdoches* in late Oct was reported conservatively as “Plumbeous or Cassin’s” (JFa, DW). A Hutton’s Vireo in Midland 9 Oct was out of place (FR, RMS), and a Warbling Vireo at Quintana 15–24 Nov was exceedingly delayed (ph. C&OB). Nice Philadelphia Vireo records came from Midland 9 Sep (D&JMer), 5 birds in Lubbock 4 Oct (KD), and one in Canutillo, *El Paso*, 10 Oct (BZ, JPa et al.). Steller’s Jays and Western Scrub-Jays moved into the lowlands of w. Texas after mid-Oct, with few Steller’s and many scrub-jays also in the Panhandle, new county records included a Steller’s in *Hansford* 12 Nov (MT) and a scrub-jay in *Hemphill* (BRo). A widespread invasion of Pinyon Jays in the Trans-Pecos started in the Davis Mts. 27 Sep. In the w. Panhandle there was a flock of 10 in *Castro/Lamb* on that first invasion date (CDL), but no reports thereafter. However, 3 in Midland 24 Sep, joined by 30 two weeks later, remained through the season. As hoped for, a few Clark’s Nutcrackers came with the Pinyon Jays, but most were single-day occurrences. The earliest preceded the jays to the Davis Mts. 25 Aug (SSo, DL, EF) and was seen there again 1 Oct (BrF et al.). One in Canutillo 9–16 Oct was the only other one to linger (JZ et al.). Others were in *El Paso*, near Alpine, and at Pine Springs and Dog Canyon of G.M.N.P. in late October and November. Truly the most bizarre sighting of the season



This Long-tailed Jaeger in fresh juvenal plumage at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso*, 31 August–1 September (photographed on the first date), was one of a remarkable five in Texas during fall 2000. Photograph by Barry R. Zimmer.

was a Clark's Nutcracker which passed by the hawkwatchers at Smith Point, *Chambers*, 14 Oct (ZS, JSt et al.).

Swallows Through Phainopepla

Two reports of Violet-green Swallow at Waco 6 Sep and 11 Oct (JMu) represented the first *McLennan* records. Cave Swallows were as far n as Cooper L., *Delta*, 20 Aug (MWh) and 4 in *Angelina* 25 Sep were the first for the entire Pineywoods (NBi). Cold wet weather 6–7 Oct made for a spectacular flight of Barn Swallows in cen. and s. Texas, but it was also catastrophic for the species. Over 100,000 were reported at Waco 7 Oct (JMu, FBu), but weakened birds were seen everywhere in the region and by 10 Oct "piles" of the dead and dying were found along roadsides in *Cameron* (JA).

Mountain Chickadees were a widespread invader in the Trans-Pecos and a surprise addition to a few woodlots in the Panhandle. Juniper Titmice were among the most unexpected of the montane visitors: 5 were at 3 *El Paso* locations 21 Oct–18 Nov (m.ob.), and *Jeff Davis* got its first records at Ft. Davis 27 Oct+ (KB et al.) and at two locations higher in the Davis Mts. 16–30 Nov (MO, M&MEa). Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded the w. third of Texas after mid-Sep. There were 2 early ones eastward in *Bastrop* 26 Aug (BrF) and *Harris* 4 Sep (JKe), but no widespread influx followed. A single Pygmy Nuthatch at Canutillo 11–16 Nov hinted at a small movement (JZ, MSc). A Winter Wren was extremely early in Amarillo 30 Aug. A thick movement of Golden-crowned Kinglets pushed well into the state after mid-Oct. A single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the *Kenedy* oil rig 19 Oct represented the first in three seasons of observation, suggesting how rare the species is offshore (AW). Mountain Bluebirds were scattered but not abundant; by mid-Nov they had made it to the I-35 corridor in *Grayson*, *Tarrant*, *McLennan*, and *Williamson*. In e. Texas a single female was at Huntsville 12 Nov, a *Walker* first (Bmu); another first, ≤4 were in *Bee* 26–30 Nov (BBau, JJ). Townsend's Solitaires made a much more conspicuous appearance. They were "unusually plentiful" on the South Plains. Single solitaires made it to *Bell* in cen. Texas 6 Oct (M&JV), *Bastrop* 23 Nov (BrF), *Webb* on the Rio Grande 4 Nov (JA), and amazingly all the way to S. Padre I., *Cameron*, in late Nov (*fide* BMc). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were in Lubbock on three dates (m.ob.) and another was in the Chisos Mts. 9 Sep (RWa). Also rare were Wood Thrushes at Lubbock 7 Oct (AF, MCa) and at Amarillo 19–26 Oct (BPi, m.ob.). A **Rufous-backed Robin** was at w. El Paso 30 Oct (*fide* JPa), a 2nd county record. A Varied

Thrush was banded 4 Nov at Davis Mts. S.P. and another was seen there 30 Nov (MHa, KB et al.). The **Blue Mockingbird** present since May 1999 continued its stay at Weslaco, *Hidalgo*, but was seen only periodically. A single Sprague's Pipit at Ft. Hancock 24 Nov provided a 2nd *Hudspeth* record (BZ, JPa). A Phainopepla was spotted briefly on a ranch in *Hidalgo* 14 Oct (RJR); the species is accidental in deepest s. Texas.

Warblers Through Finches

No fewer than 44 warbler species were reported this season; in the South Plains and Panhandle, where diversity is usually low, at least 22 species were listed. Townsend's and Mourning Warblers were particularly abundant in their regular ranges. An array of species were still lingering on the U.T.C. well into November. Two **Olive Warblers**, the 5th and 6th for Texas, were in the Trans-Pecos: one at the Davis Mts. Preserve 6 Oct (BrF, GL, PH, ‡ to TBRC) and another at Hueco Tanks 11–18 Nov (AW, BG et al., ph. BZ). Blue-winged Warblers were notable at Lubbock 18 Sep, Amarillo 14 Nov, and San Bernard, *Brazoria*, 25 Nov into Dec. A first-fall Golden-winged for *El Paso* was encountered 24 Sep at Ft. Bliss. A Virginia's in *Gray* 26 Aug was a new county record (RSc et al.), and a stray was at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 4 Sep (†DV). There were a remarkable 3 Black-throated (m.ob.) in the Panhandle, 4 more in Midland (m.ob.), and a lingering bird 13–27 Oct at El Paso. A Hermit Warbler was out of range in Midland 10 Sep, and a Blackburnian in *Williamson* 28 Aug was unexpected. *Culbertson* got its first Pine Warbler, 28 Oct n. of Van Horn (MA). Ten Prothonotaries in the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle were notable. A Worm-eating was a rarity in San Antonio 15 Sep, and another was accidental in G.M.N.P. 14 Oct. Single Louisiana Waterthrushes were in *Pecos*, *Jeff Davis*, and *Brewster*, where the species is casual. Notable Hooded Warblers were in Amarillo 27 Aug, Lubbock 4 & 16 Oct, and Wichita Falls 12 Oct., and a Canada was at Buffalo L. 7 Oct. Perhaps the rarest "regular" migrant in w. Texas, single Red-faced Warblers were at the Davis Mts. Preserve 6 Aug (first county record; MAd, KB) and in the Chisos Mts. 14 Aug (M & GBr).

Finding both Scarlet and Western Tanagers in *Burnet* on the same date, 14 Oct, was certainly unexpected (DY); an early Scarlet was at Sabine Woods 26 Aug (JWh), as was an Eastern Towhee in *Angelina* the same day (LD). A Bachman's Sparrow at the TX-147 bridge over L. Sam Rayburn 22 Sep was an unexpected migrant (DW, JFa). Cassin's Sparrows strayed far eastward: one was in *Delta* 25 Aug (MWh,

BSt), another provided a first record at L. Tawakoni 16 Sep (MWh), and one at that TX-147 bridge over L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine*, 21 Oct provided a first county record (DW). A heavy movement of Clay-colored was reflected in records in the Pineywoods; a first *Angelina* sighting was made 18 Oct (DW, JFa). A Brewer's Sparrow in College Station 9–13 Oct provided a first for *Brazos* (EIR, CHam, MMn, et al.). The e. end of that now-famous bridge over L. Sam Rayburn harbored the first Brewer's for *San Augustine* and the entire Pineywoods region 21 Oct (†DW, CDF, JFa et al.); another in *Nueces* 25 Nov constituted a rare Coastal Bend report (WS). A Lark Bunting made it to *Fort Bend* 5 Nov (CRi et al.), but there did not seem to be a general influx. Details were submitted on 4 Baird's Sparrows found in w. Texas from Lubbock to the Davis Mts. Up to 4 Sharp-tailed at L. Takakoni, *Rains*, 9–20 Oct and another at L. Grapevine, *Denton*, 14–15 Oct provided first county records (m.ob.), 1–2 were at the *San Augustine* end of the TX-147 bridge 18–29 October (DW et al., ph. JFa) and yet 2 more were inland at Longview, *Gregg*, as late as 5–11 Nov (GLu, TOS). A Harris's Sparrow at S. Padre I., *Cameron*, 10–14 Nov represented an unprecedented barrier-island record (BMc). A single imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow was at G.M.N.P. 4 Nov (†PR, JG). Gray-headed Juncos were surprising finds in *Morris* 15 Oct (DBro) and *Dallas* 20 Oct (W & DMc), but shocking were **White-winged Juncos** in G.M.N.P. 20 Nov (MO) and at El Paso 30 Nov (ph. BZ; 3rd and 4th Texas records).

A Black-headed Grosbeak at a bird bath offered a first *Angelina* record 2 Sep (NBi). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings positively flooded e. Texas. Three Dickcissels were detected in *Jeff Davis*, where the species is irregular. There was an excess of Bobolinks for a fall season: one in *Bailey* in the South Plains 5 Aug was followed by a flock of 20–25 in *Calhoun* 13 Aug, 6 more in Austin 19 Aug, 5 at Port Aransas, *Nueces*, 12–13 Sep, and one at S.S.W.T.P. 10 Oct. The westernmost Rusty Blackbirds were at *Briscoe* 18 Nov (EK et al.) and Hueco Tanks 25 Nov (ByS). A Common Grackle was an accidental find in Rio Grande Village 18 Nov (BG et al.). A male Scott's Oriole was reported from Galveston I. 18–21 Oct (JSt); documentation has been requested. A female **Pine Grosbeak** was photographed on the Upper Tejas Trail of G.M.N.P., *Culbertson*, 24 Nov for only the 5th Texas record (ErC, ph., † to TBRC). A conspicuous influx of Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills, and Evening Grosbeaks was detected in far w

Texas, and a few of each spilled into the Panhandle. Again in the unexpected category were 2 Cassin's Finches on S. Padre I., *Cameron*, 11-18 Nov (BK, WC, ph. BMc). Eighteen crossbills moved as far as *Mason* by 30 Nov (DFu, BoF), and a single Evening Grosbeak was in Abilene 11-12 Oct (LBl).

Corrigenda

In *N Am. Birds* 54(1) we reported El Paso's latest ever American Golden-Plover 7 Nov 1999 (JSp); the species was a Marbled Godwit. In that same column, delete the jaeger at Imperial Res. 26 Nov; that should read as a Parasitic Jaeger at L. Balmorhea on the CBC 17 Dec 1999 (RR). We received a belated but significant report of a Henslow's Sparrow in *Oldham* 6 May 2000 (EK, RSc, BPi).

Cited observers (subregional editors in boldface):

Peggy Abbott, Mark Adams (MAd), John Arvin, Mike Austin, Peter Barnes (PeB), Keith Bartels (KBa), Bob Barth (BoB), Ben Basham (BBa), Boyd Bauer (BBau), Patty Beasley (PBe), Bob Behrstock (BBeh), Mike & Melissa Bennington (M & MBe), Dick Benoit (DBe), Robert Benson (RBe), Nancy Bird (NBi), Lorie Black (LBl), Nick Block (NBl), Bill Bourbon (BiB), Rick & Nora Bowers (R & NBo), Barry Boyd (BBo), M & G. Brazaitis (M & GBr), Dan Brooks (DaB), David Brotherton (DBro), Charles & Olivia Brower (C & OB), John Brunjes, Tim Brush (TBr), **Kelly Bryan** (Trans-Pecos: P.O. Box 786, Ft. Davis, TX 79734. email: kelly.bryan@tpwd.state.tx.us), Frank

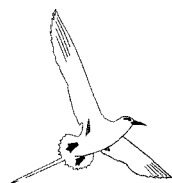
Bumgardner (FBU), Marty Campbell (MCa), Truett Cantrell (TCa), Everett & Anette Carlisle (E & AC), Oscar Carmona, Eric Carpenter (ErC), Will Carter, John Chandler (JCh), Tom Collins (TCo), Arlie & **Mel Cooksey** (A & MCo) (South Texas: 15825 Socorro Loope, Corpus Christi, TX 78418. email: cybrbrdr@electrotex.com), Kelly Cotten, Noreen Damude, Louis Debetaz, Ken Dixon, Bob Doe, Marc & Maryann Eastmann (M & MEa), Chuck Ely (CEl), Jesse Fagan (JFa), Rob Fergus, Eric Finkelstein, Betty & Weldon Fisbeck (B & WF), Charles Dean Fisher (CDF), Mark Flippo, Anthony Floyd, Bobbye Frazier (BoF), Brush Freeman (BrF), **Bert Frenz** (BeF)(East Texas: 221 Rainbow Dr., PMB 12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021. email: bert@bafrenz.com), Dixie Fueurbacher (DFu), John Gee, Brian Gibbons, Vanessa Green, Carolyn Haluska (CHal), Chuck Hamilton (CHam), Martha Hansen, Jeff Hanson (JHa), Chris & Cheree Harrison, Petra Hockey (PHo), Bob Honig, P.D. Hulce, Jimmy Jackson, Bob Johnson, Tom Johnson, Jan Kamler (JaK), Joe Kennedy (JKe), Barbara Kennett, Philip Kite, Jane Kittleman (JKi), Mark Klym (MKl), Rich Kostecke (Rko), Ed Kutac, David Larson, Greg Lasley, C.D. Littlefield, Mark Lockwood, Guy Luneau (GLu), Bill Lupardus (BLu), John MacFarlane (JMac), Thomas Manes (TMa), Mike Manson (MMn), Stuart Marcus, Brad McKinney (BMc), Wanda & Doug McNeely (W & DMc), Don & Joann Merritt (D & JMer), Wayne Meyer, John Muldrow (JMu), Brenda Muncrief (BMu), Derek Muschalek, Kenneth

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