

Texas



Mark W. Lockwood

402 East Harriet Street

Alpine, Texas 79830

(mark.lockwood@tpwd.state.tx.us)

As has been the pattern in recent years, the western half of the state experienced rather dry conditions, although the central mountains saw some relief from the 10-year drought this fall. In the eastern half of the state, it could generally be described as wet to very wet. Related to these conditions, the west saw normal to above-normal temperatures, while the east was well below normal. In an average year, north-central Texas will experience eight days of 100-degree heat during the August and September months, but this year there were none. Many cold fronts made it all the way to Texas between late August and early October, which grounded migrating passer-

ines and other land birds, making for excellent birding. Probably as a result, many record-early arrival dates were noted. A series of tropical storms in the Gulf of Mexico made landfall along the Upper Texas Coast, slowing the passage of some circum-gulf migrants and coastal winterers, often deflecting them farther inland and producing some notable records.

Abbreviations: T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast); N.S. (National Seashore). The following are shortened names for the respective local, county, state, or national parks, and wildlife refuges, etc.: Alazan Bayou, Anahuac, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Buescher, Buffalo Lake, Lost Maples, Matagorda I., Packery Channel, Palo Duro Canyon, Quintana, Sabine Woods, San Bernard, Santa Ana, Sea Rim, and Trinity River.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

Red-throated Loons were at L. Worth, *Tarrant* 13 Oct (MR) and Hagerman, *Grayson* 3 Nov

(RR, LLe). A single Pacific Loon was at Tornillo Res., *Hudspeth* 30 Nov (JPa), and 2 were at L. Tawakoni, *Rains/Van Zandt* 26-28 Nov (BG, RR). Least Grebes were discovered building a nest at Galveston, *Galveston* on 12 Sep, and 4 young were present 12 Oct (SF), providing a rare nesting record for the U.T.C. A Western Grebe was at Lake O' the Pines, *Marion* 23 Nov (TFe); this species is a casual visitor to the Pineywoods. Western Grebes continue to nest at McNary Res., El Paso, where a pair with young was noted in late Nov (JPa, BZ). High counts of 72 Westerns and 150 Clark's Grebes there in mid-Sep were impressive (BZ).

There were two deepwater pelagic trips this fall: one from S. Padre I., *Cameron* 13 Sep and another from Port Aransas, *Aransas* 6 Oct. The Sep trip yielded one Audubon's and 6 Cory's Shearwaters and 3 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (BMc, m. ob.). A brief observation of a possible Manx Shearwater was made at the entrance to the South Padre I. jetties (†PH, MAu, MO, et al.); if accepted, it would be the 7th record for the state. A count of one Greater (†MC, PH et al.), one Audubon's, and 48 Cory's Shearwaters was made on the 6 Oct trip (DwP, m. ob.).

American White Pelicans were pushed southward by a strong cold front 12-13 Oct, with as many as 10,000 noted at a single location at L. Livingston, *Trinity* (GR). Very high counts of American White Pelicans for the El Paso area included amazing flocks of 106 and 500 birds 6 Nov (*vide* BZ). Inland Brown Pelicans were noted at Alcoa L., *Milam* 7 Sep (TFe et al.), near Utley, *Bastrop* 13 Oct (BFR), and at Hagerman, *Grayson* 25 Nov (BG, KL). A highlight of the 13 Sep pelagic out of South Padre Is. was an imm. Brown Booby sitting on the jetty as the boat returned to the harbor (†ph., BMc, MC, m. ob.). A well-described female Magnificent Frigatebird seen near Camp Verde, *Kerr* 14 Oct (†RPe) was a first for the Edwards Plateau.

A Least Bittern was seen at Rio Grande Village 27 Sep (RPa). Tricolored Herons wandered to El Paso 18 Aug—6 Oct (JSp) and 11 Sep (JPa). A group of 35 Tricolored Herons at Shipp L., *Bastrop* 22 Aug was a nice inland concentration (BFR). The number of Reddish Egrets wandering inland each fall appears to be increasing. In the Trans-Pecos, one continued its residence at Balmorhea L., *Reeves*, 2 were at Imperial Res., *Pecos* 20 Sep (MA), and one was in the Christmas Mountains, *Brewster* 24 Aug (COK). Providing only the 3rd n.-cen. Texas record, one was at L. Benbrook 5-10 Oct (MR). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron at McNary Res. 8 Sep (JPa) was unusual there. Glossy Ibis has become an almost annual fall visitor to n.-cen. Texas: this season, one was at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 3 Aug (RR). Late White-faced Ibis were in *Mason* 5 Nov (DF, BoF) and L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 11 Nov (TK). Post-breeding

Roseate Spoonbills made a good showing in n.-cen. Texas, with one to 4 present in three locations in *Tarrant* and *Dallas* (m. ob.). An imm. spoonbill was over Balcones Canyonlands, *Williamson* 20 Aug (BR), for a rare Hill Country sighting. Two Wood Storks at L. Sam Rayburn, *Nacogdoches/San Augustine* 27 Oct provided the latest fall record for East Texas (DW, JF).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck continued to be present through the period at Levelland, *Hockley* (LSm). Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 15-17 Aug (D&LE et al.) provided a very rare Trans-Pecos record. A female Eurasian Wigeon was reported from Hagerman 29-31 Oct (†KH, LLe). Surf Scoters were reported from inland locations with greater frequency this fall than in the last several years. The most noteworthy of these was one at L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine* 24-30 Nov (JF, DW), providing the first area record in over a decade. A single White-winged Scoter was discovered at Balmorhea L. 15 Nov (MAd). Remarkably, 3 were present 19 Nov (KB), with 2 remaining through the period (m. ob.). Other inland White-winged Scoters were at L. Worth, *Tarrant* 5 Nov (MR) and White River L., *Crosby* 9 Nov (BB et al.). Long-tailed Ducks are rare migrants through the state; this fall found singles at L. Worth 5-10 Nov (MR), Hagerman 10 Nov (LLe), Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 9-11 Nov (RF et al.), and L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* 11 Nov (MR).

A concentration of 12 Ospreys at L. Tangewood, *Randall* 10 Oct (TLJ) was truly unusual for the Panhandle. Ospreys lingered unusually late in the Trans-Pecos, with 5 at Balmorhea L. 15 Nov (MAd) and one there as late as 25 Nov (JG, CE). The outstanding find of the season in the South Plains was a Swallow-tailed Kite observed at length near Floydada, *Floyd* 5 Oct (DSw), providing the 4th area record. A flock of 600 Mississippi Kites at Encino, *Brooks* 25 Aug was nice sighting (GL). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Buffalo L., *Randall* 7 Aug (KS) was the earliest fall record there by 20 days. A Northern Goshawk was well studied 12 Nov at Cement Cr. Pond, *Tarrant* (†MR et al.).

Common Black-Hawks made a rare appearance at Guadalupe Mountains, with

SA The Smith Point Hawk Watch, *Chambers*, recorded its second highest raptor total (76,867) since daily counting was started in 1997. New seasonal records were set for Swallow-tailed Kites with 150, more than doubling the previous high of 74 set last fall; and the highest daily total for the species was 27 seen 20 Aug. Seasonal records were also set for American Kestrels and Peregrine Falcons, at 1947 and 94, respectively. These totals narrowly topped the previous record totals of 1939 (1999) and 92 (1998). One new late date for the count was established when a Mississippi Kite was seen on 3 Nov. The numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were well below average.

single birds at separate locations 13 & 21 Aug (IN). Very good finds were single Red-shouldered Hawks at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 31 Aug (AF, AH), along Limpia Creek, *Jeff Davis* 17 Aug (DH, BG), and at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend, *Brewster* 20 Nov (GL). An early Broad-winged Hawk was noted on Galveston I., *Galveston* 3 Aug (JSt). An estimated 1000 Broad-winged were blown off Galveston I. 26 Sep by winds circulating around Tropical Storm *Isidore*, while about 400 were found dead 29 Sep despite wind changes that should have allowed them to move inland (JSt). Single Broad-winged Hawks were noted in *Lubbock* on four occasions 17 Aug—18 Oct (m. ob.). Other Broad-winged in the w. half of the state included 2 in *Yoakum* 12 Oct (BB, RK) and singles in *Wheeler* 1 Sep (BPI), *Buffalo* L. 14 Sep (EK, RSc) and 1 Oct (KS), *Fort Davis*, *Jeff Davis* 10 Oct (KB), and *Amarillo*, *Potter* 8 Nov (DoM).

A spectacular migration of Swainson's Hawks passed through Texas along a line from Fort Worth to the Austin area to the Lower Rio Grande Valley 6-7 Oct, bypassing the coastal hawkwatches. In the Granger L. area, *Williamson*, Fennell noted flights of 2500+ birds 6 Oct and 3500+ birds 7 Oct. Reid made an amazing discovery in n. *Tarrant*

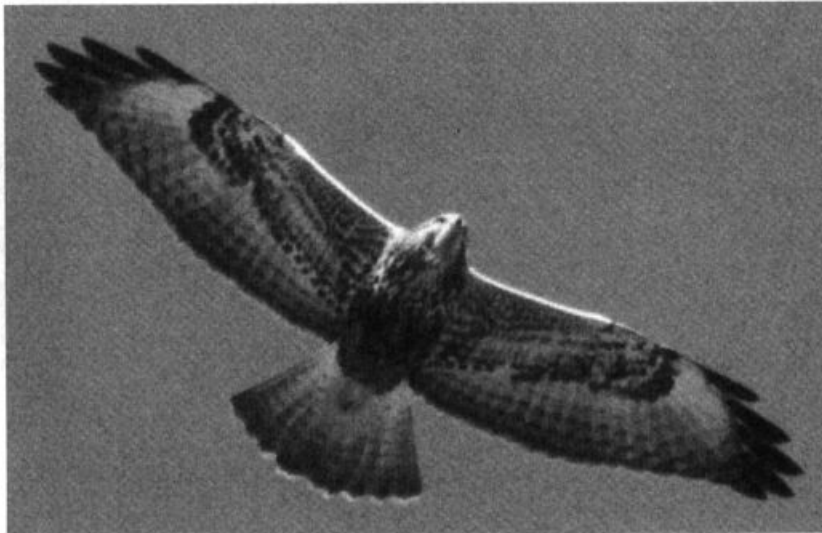
concurrent with the identification. Details are to be published elsewhere. A Zone-tailed Hawk at Huntsville State Park, *Walker* 26-27 Oct (OC, SG) was only the 2nd ever reported for East Texas, the first being at the same location in Feb. Very early Ferruginous Hawks were in El Paso 22 Sep (BZ) and Midland, *Midland* 28 Sep (m. ob.). An early Merlin was at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 30 Aug (BFR, PH).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Rarely recorded in migration, 2 King Rails were in the marsh below Granger L., *Williamson* 2 Nov (BSt, TFe). A flock of 70 Sandhill Cranes over El Paso 10 Sep (JPa) was at least three weeks ahead of their expected arrival date. Migrating Whooping Cranes were noted at several locations this fall: 9 were near Whiteface, *Motley* 26 Oct (AF), one was over Lubbock 27 Oct (AF), 3 rested in a field near Waco, *McLennan* 4 Nov (KK et al.), 2 others were n. of Waco 4 Nov (KA), 2 at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* 4 Nov (MR), 8 were n. of Florence, *Williamson* 5 Nov (E&RM), and one was at Thrall, *Williamson* 17-23 Nov (BSt, TFe, EH).

A Snowy Plover remained at L. Lewisville, *Denton* 9 Nov+ (KL, BG). A flock of 13 Mountain Plovers was found in *Carson* 17 Oct (MK, JRa, MS). A single Mountain Plover photographed 10 Nov at East Beach, *Galveston* provided a very rare coastal record (TP, CTL). Mountain Plovers were first noted near Granger, *Williamson* 20 Oct (TFe, BSt) and were present throughout the rest of the season, with a high count of 54 on 27 Nov (TFe). On 12 Nov, Bryan discovered wintering flocks of Mountain Plover numbering at least 112 individuals in bare pastures near Dell City, *Hudspeth*. This species was not known to winter in the Trans-Pecos.

A late Upland Sandpiper was at Granger L. 2 Nov (BSt, TFe). Single Whimbrels at *Tarrant* 14 Aug (DPo), Granger L. 21 Aug (LBU), and *Randall* 14 Sep (EK, RSc) were noteworthy. A count of 11 Whim-



This photograph of the apparent Swainson's x Rough-legged Hawk was taken 19 November 2002. Photograph by Martin Reid.

11 Nov+ when he observed an apparent Swainson's Hawk x Rough-Legged Hawk hybrid. Brian Wheeler and Bill Clark examined the extensive photographic record and

breles 11 Aug at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* was a notable fall total (WB et al.). A Long-billed Curlew was over Lake O' the Pines, *Marion* 28 Sep (GLu et al.), where the species is a casual migrant. A group of 12 Marbled Godwits at Cactus L., *Moore* 10 Aug (BiM, BPI, RSc, JHu) was a good concentration for the Panhandle. Westward-wandering Sanderlings were noted at Ft. Hancock, *Hudspeth* 8 Sep (JPa), Imperial Res., *Pecos* 20 Sep (MAd), and Mound L., *Terry* 8 Oct (AA). A high count of 24 Baird's Sandpipers at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* may be a new U.T.C. high (RWe). A Purple Sandpiper discovered on the Quintana Jetty, *Brazoria* 29 Nov+ (†BL et al.) was only the 2nd to be found in Texas during the fall. Buff-breasted Sandpipers are rarely reported from the Panhandle; this year, one was near Hart, *Castro* 15 Aug (BiM, MM). An American Woodcock found 3 Aug at San Bernard, *Brazoria* was one of the earliest fall records ever for the U.T.C. (BL).

Laughing Gulls have become annual fall visitors to the Trans-Pecos; this year, 2 were at McNary Res. 8 Aug (JPa, BZ). A Mew Gull present at Linkcrest Landfill, *Tarrant* from 25 Nov+ was the earliest ever found in Texas (†MR, EW et al.). A California Gull photographed at Lake O' the Pines 23 Nov (TFe) provided the first record for East Texas. An ad. California Gull at McNary Res. 1 Oct afforded the earliest fall record for the El Paso area (BZ). Other notable gulls at Linkcrest Landfill, *Tarrant* included a California and a Lesser Black-backed on 27 Nov (MR, LBA, MO). Only 3 Sabine's Gulls were reported this fall: an ad. at Balmorhea L. 5-12 Aug (DJo, EC, TFe), an imm. at L. Worth, *Tarrant* 16-22 Sep (MR et al.), and an imm. at McNary Res. 12 Sep (BZ).

Very rare inland, a Gull-billed Tern was at Shipp L., *Bastrop* 19 Sep (BFR). Nine Common Terns at McNary 8 Oct (JPa, BZ) was an unusually high count for the Trans-Pecos. A Common Tern at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* 13-17 Sep (†MR et al.) provided one of the few documented records for n.-cen. Texas. A Least Tern at Kurth L., *Angelina* 16 Aug (GG) was a county first. Another Least Tern was reported on the late date of 14 Oct in Lubbock (BPh). Totals of 3 and 18 Bridled Terns were seen on the 13 Sep and 6 Oct pelagic trips, respectively. Surprisingly, no Sooty Terns were seen on the 13 Sep pelagic and only 2 on the 6 Oct trip. Very noteworthy was an ad. Sooty Tern at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* 9-14 Sep following the passage of Tropical Storm *Fay* (MR, m. ob.). Three late Black Terns were at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* 3 Nov (RWe).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

White-winged Doves are still an uncommon sight in the Brazos Valley, and one in Caldwell, *Burleson* 7 Nov (AR) was a county first. Common Ground-Doves made unexpected

appearances on both sides of the state: one near Diboll, *Angelina* 14 Oct (RT) and near McNary Res., *Hudspeth* from 27 Oct+ (JPa). Black-billed Cuckoos are usually very hard to find in fall, but there were several records of the species this year on the U.T.C., including a late bird at Quintana, *Brazoria* 19 Oct (IH et al.). A very nice inland record was provided by a Black-billed Cuckoo in Buescher, *Bastrop* 19 Sep (BFR). Yellow-billed Cuckoos lingered at High I., *Galveston* 24 Nov (DVe) and San Bernard, *Brazoria* 29 Nov (R&KL).

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls have been virtually unknown from the central Lower Rio Grande Valley in recent decades; however, 2 took up residence at Bentsen, *Hidalgo* in early Sep+ (TB). A Common Poorwill was n. of the known wintering range at Fort Hood, *Bell* 25 Nov (DC). Chuck-will's-widow are well-known trans-Gulf migrants, but it was still a surprise to see one 80+ km offshore on the 13 Sep pelagic trip (MC, m. ob.). A Whip-poor-will at Quintana, *Brazoria* 29 Aug was the 2nd earliest fall record for the U.T.C. (TC). A White-throated Swift was in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 7 Oct (KS), where the species has been a very irregular visitor.

For the 3rd fall/winter in a row, an ad. male Green-breasted Mango visited a feeder in McAllen, *Hidalgo* 8 Sep+ (*vide* BMC, MAU, TFe). An imm. male Broad-billed Hummingbird was in El Paso 17-30 Oct (†BZ). The male White-eared Hummingbird present in the Davis Mountains, *Jeff Davis* in the summer was seen sporadically through 25 Aug (†M&ME). A male Blue-throated Hummingbird visited Mont Belvieu, *Harris* 18-21 Nov (B&EJ, ph. JHi) for a very rare U.T.C. record. Two imm. Lucifer Hummingbirds lingered at Panther Junction in Big Bend until 18 Oct (MF), but they were outdone by single birds near Alpine, *Brewster* 17 & 21 Oct (JG, DWh) and an imm. male in Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 9 Nov (KB). Calliope Hummingbirds made an appearance on the upper coast, with singles in Houston 2-9 Nov (GM et al.) and L. Jackson, *Brazoria* 14 Nov (DJa). The efforts of banders along the coast have shown that Allen's Hummingbirds are regular fall migrants and winter residents. This year, one was banded near Sweeny, *Brazoria* 18 Oct (†CB, PHu), and singles were banded in Corpus Christi 24 Aug and 8 Sep (†GSW). Zimmer (†) had an ad. male Allen's in his El Paso yard 22-25 Jul.

A female Green Kingfisher was well e. of normal range as it visited Champion L. in s. Liberty 23 Nov (B&EJ). After a one-year absence, a pair of Green Kingfishers returned to the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail in Big Bend (m. ob.). Lewis's Woodpeckers made a good showing in the state, with 2 in Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 8 Nov+ (DWh), one in Hartley, *Hartley* 9 Nov (BPI, RSc), one at Marfa, *Presidio* 24 Nov (MAd, LLo), and 3 near Bal-

morhea, *Reeves* in early Nov (TJ). An Acorn Woodpecker in w. El Paso 29 Nov was an unusual find, as this species is rare to casual there (JPa, BZ). A Red-bellied Woodpecker in Golden-fronted habitat in Palo Duro Canyon, *Randall* 29 Oct (PA) looked out of place, and one along the Llano River, *Mason* 19 Nov was also a great find (DF, BoF). A migrant female Williamson's Sapsucker s. of Alpine, *Brewster* 18 Sep was early (DWh); an ad. male visited an El Paso backyard 29 Sep, joined by a female 5 Oct—a remarkable pair of records for a single week in El Paso (BZ). A Red-naped Sapsucker at the San Antonio Botanical Center, *Bexar* 10 Nov provided a new county record (SC, TN). Also noteworthy were Red-naped at Honey Creek, *Comal* 17 Oct (SWi) and Crystal L., *Bastrop* 19 Nov (BFR). A Pileated Woodpecker was heard in the riparian woods below Granger Dam, *Williamson* 21 Sep (TFe, BSt).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH JAYS

Late Olive-sided Flycatchers were at High I., *Galveston* 6 Oct (DVe) and 14 Oct on w. *Galveston* I. (JSt). A Greater Pewee was well observed 4 Aug in the Guadalupe Mountains (†MO). Eastern Wood-Pewees arrived early, with one at Quintana, *Brazoria* 3 Aug (DVe), and stayed late, with another 30 Oct in College Station, *Brazos* (JPh). Acadian Flycatchers are low-density fall migrants, and the timing of fall migration is not well understood. This year, Acadians were noted at Chappell Hill, *Washington* 8 Oct (DVo), Brenham, *Washington* 11 Oct (DVo), Port Aransas, *Nueces* 12 Oct (MC), Waco, *McLennan* 13 Oct (FB et al.), and *Brazoria* 17 Oct (SP). Two were at Blucher, *Nueces* 12 Oct (MC, MH, WS). A lingering Willow Flycatcher was reported from w. *Galveston* I., *Galveston* 11 Oct (JSt). Very noteworthy was a Hammond's Flycatcher at *Bastrop* S.P., *Bastrop* 9 Oct (BFR). A Gray Flycatcher in *Karnes* 24 Nov would have been less expected, had it not been the 4th record in the area since 1990 (DMu). A Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher at McKinney Roughs, *Bastrop* 23 Nov (ML, BFR) was also quite unexpected.

Black Phoebe's continue to be recorded in the Panhandle with increasing frequency; this season, one was in Amarillo, *Potter* 11 Nov (BPI). Out-of-range Vermilion Flycatchers were at Muleshoe, *Bailey* 8 Aug (JBr), Village Creek, *Tarrant* 4 Oct (JSi), L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine* 27 Oct (JF, DW), and El Paso 10 Nov (JPa). The 2 Dusky-capped Flycatchers reported during the summer in Big Bend remained until 1 Sep (*vide* MF) and were observed with 2 juvs. 22 Aug and later (†m. ob.). Two ad. Great Crested Flycatchers at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground 31 Aug (BFR, PH) provided one of the few records for the park. A Great Kiskadee in Ropseville, *Hockley* 24 Nov+ (BB, m. ob.) provided a first

record for the South Plains. The Tropical Kingbirds at Cottonwood Campground were last reported 30 Aug (PH, BFr). A Couch's Kingbird at Nacogdoches, *Nacogdoches* 2-29 Nov (JF et al.) was the first confirmed record for the Pineywoods. In cen. Texas, a slew of sightings included 2 at San Marcos, *Hays* 12 Oct (BSt), 2 in Junction, *Kimble* 17 Sep (RH), and 6 at New Braunfels, *Comal* 8 Sep (CH).

The female Rose-throated Becard present at Santa Ana during the summer was last reported 1 Oct (*vide* BMC). Two Northern Shrikes were found in the Panhandle this fall: one in *Dallam* 2 Nov (EK et al.) and one at Buffalo L., *Randall* 14 Nov (KS). Early Blue-headed Vireos were noted at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone* 15 Sep (PB) and Houston, *Harris* 20 Sep (JHi). A probable Cassin's Vireo was well studied at L. Worth 19 Sep (†MR). A Hutton's Vireo was observed at close range on Galveston I., *Galveston* on 14 Oct (†JSt), providing a first U.T.C. record. Another Hutton's at Lost Maples, *Bandera* 2 Nov (BR) falls more easily into the pattern established in recent years. A Red-eyed Vireo was in El Paso 16 Sep (BZ). Starting in late Sep, Steller's Jays could be found in El Paso in groups of 5 to 8 birds (JPa), and numbers increased throughout the fall. By early Oct, the invasion had spread to the Panhandle, where small numbers were found in many locations in the w. half of the area. Western Scrub-Jays also invaded the Panhandle and the El Paso area. Completing the list of invading corvids, Pinyon Jays were first noted in the Davis Mts. on 21 Sep (M&ME) and were soon being seen at various locations across *Jeff Davis* and *Brewster*. An extraordinary flock of 500 Pinyon Jays was witnessed in the Davis Mountains Preserve 27 Oct (DHe). In the Panhandle, Pinyon Jays were first noted on 23 Sep at Buffalo L. (KS) and continued to be seen in numbers at other locations for the remainder of the season. A Fish Crow was outside its typical range at Smith Point, *Chambers* 20 Sep (WB).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

Two Purple Martins at Big Bend's Panther Junction on 4 Aug were a nice find (MF), as was another at Balmorhea L. 17 Aug (DHi, BG). Twenty or more Cave Swallows along with at least 20 inactive nests were in *Burleson* on 17 Sep (ERa, DVo), providing the first evidence of possible nesting for the area. Two Tufted Titmice were carefully studied at L. McLellan, *Gray* 22 Nov (KS), in an area normally frequented by Black-crested. A

Black-crested Titmouse in Dalhart, *Dallam* 2 Nov (EK, BPi) was over 160 km. nw. of the closest population. Red-breasted Nuthatches were much more common than normal this fall in the Davis Mountains (m. ob.). Cactus Wrens continue to creep northward in the Panhandle: 8 were in Adrian, *Oldham* 21 Sep (EK, BPi, RSc). A singing Carolina Wren at Canutillo, *El Paso* 20 Nov was an excellent find (JZ). Six Marsh Wrens were noted in *Trinity* 24 Aug (TG), the first Aug record for the Pineywoods. A Winter Wren in Lake Jackson, *Brazoria*, 9 Oct was the 2nd earliest ever for the U.T.C. (JoW).

The invasion of Golden-crowned Kinglets this season into the Oaks & Prairies region of cen. Texas was impressive and, perhaps, the greatest seen in decades (m. ob.). A very good find was 11 Western Bluebirds in Adrian, *Oldham* 20 Oct (BPi, ph.). Three Mountain Bluebirds at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 11 Nov were early and somewhat farther e. than expected (JC). A single Townsend's Solitaire in El Paso 21 Sep was the earliest fall record for the county (BZ). A Veery at Quintana, *Brazoria* 4 Nov was apparently a new late record for the U.T.C. (CB et al.). A Wood Thrush was at El Paso 7 Oct (BZ), providing a 4th county record. A male Varied Thrush in El Paso 24 Nov was a 3rd county record (†, ph., JPa). A very early Sage Thrasher was in *Moore* 19 Aug (KS), and others wandered eastward to *Throckmorton* 12 Oct (BG, PB), to O.H. Ivie Reservoir, *Coleman* on the same



This Painted Redstart provided a very rare documented record for the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas at Edinburg, Hidalgo County 3 November (here 4 November) 2002 through the end of the month. Photograph by Charles Lyon.

date (JaP, LP, LBl), and farther e. to Honey Cr., *Comal* 17 Oct (SWi). Brown Thrasher, a rare winter visitor to far w. Texas, made it to El Paso 30 Nov (BZ). An imm. Blue Mockingbird was discovered in Pharr, *Hidalgo* in late Sep and remained through the end of the period (AW, †JA). The bird molted into ad. plumage by early Dec and if accepted would

be the 2nd state record. A Phainopepla wandered to Lubbock 24 Oct (AF).

A late migrant Blue-winged Warbler was at Georgetown, *Williamson* 10 Oct (TFe), while a Lawrence's Warbler was in nw. San Antonio, *Bexar* 13 Sep (CC), the first report of this hybrid from the Edwards Plateau. A Lucy's Warbler along the Window Trail in Big Bend on 30 Aug (BFr, PH) was at an unusual elevation. A female Tropical Parula was at Blucher, *Nueces* 2 Nov+ (LJo et al.). Two Chestnut-sided Warblers at L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine* 20 Oct provided a new late date for East Texas (JF, DW). A Cape May Warbler was photographed near Boerne, *Kendall* 19-23 Oct (DPA) for the first documented record for the Edwards Plateau. Black-throated Blue Warblers were recorded from four locations in n.-cen. Texas 8-27 Oct, an unexpected influx of this very rare migrant (m. ob.). Single Black-throated Gray Warblers were well e. of normal at Bastrop, *Bastrop* 25 Nov (BFr) and San Antonio 29 Oct—20 Nov (HR). A Townsend's Warbler in Mason, *Mason* 16 Oct (DF) provided a very rare Edwards Plateau record. Noteworthy Blackburnian Warblers were at Amarillo, *Potter* 4 Sep (KS) and the Tornillo Rest Stop, *Hudspeth* 20 Oct (†JPa). Another *Hudspeth* first was a Yellow-throated Warbler at the Tornillo Rest Stop 15 Aug (BZ).

Pine Warblers w. of normal range were at Amarillo, *Randall* 12 Sep (KS) and Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 13 Nov (JiH). A Prairie Warbler at Prairie Creek Park, *Dallas* 25 Aug (BG, DHi) was a 2nd county record. Blackpoll Warblers are rare anywhere in Texas in the fall; this season's only bird was one in Corpus Christi 7 Nov (MC, WS). Late Prothonotary Warblers were at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 26 Oct (JWh, SM) and Sea Rim, *Jefferson* 27 Oct (JWh, JBe). A Louisiana Waterthrush was reported from Boot Canyon, *Brewster* 21 Aug (BG), where the species is accidental. A late Worm-eating Warbler at Lafitte's Cove, *Galveston* 29 Oct apparently tied the U.T.C. late date (JSt). A Kentucky Warbler in Amarillo, *Potter* 15 Oct (LJa, EK) provided a rare Panhandle record. A Mourning Warbler in Lubbock on 4 Oct (AF) was also a good find. A MacGillivray's Warbler wandered eastward to Galveston I. 27 Oct—24 Nov (DwP). A Golden-crowned Warbler on the University of Texas-Pan American campus in Edinburg, *Hidalgo* 2 Nov+ (†TB, m. ob.) provided the

15th record for the state.

Hooded Warblers in Amarillo, *Randall* 14 Aug and 9 Oct (RSc) were unexpected. A very late Canada Warbler was at White Rock L., *Dallas* 20 Oct (CR, et al.). The Red-faced Warbler reported during the summer at Boot Spring, *Brewster* remained until 25 Aug (†m.ob.). A surprising group of 3 Red-faced Warblers foraged together near Pinnacles Pass in the Chisos Mts. on 21 Aug (BG, †DHi). An ad. Painted Redstart tantalized observers in Edinburg, *Hidalgo* 3 Nov+ (TB, m. ob.). For the first time in several years, Painted Redstarts could be seen consistently in the Chisos Mts., several being reported during the period. A migrating Painted Redstart was El Paso, *El Paso* 4 Oct (JZ, †BZ), the latest fall record for the county.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Hepatic Tanagers are rarely noted in migration; this season, a female was seen 8 Oct in El Paso (BZ). A Scarlet Tanager in Houston, *Harris* 20 Sep was early (JHi), while another at Quintana, *Brazoria* 8 Nov was very late (DVe). Scarlet Tanagers of note farther w. were at Lubbock 9 Aug (EMc) and 8 Oct (GJ). A male Western Tanager wandered eastward to *Grayson* 1 Oct (E&RS). Two White-collared Seedeaters were at Santa Ana on 2 Sep, one of which was a juv. (TB). An Eastern Towhee was at L. Marvin, *Hemphill* 24 Nov (EC). Six Savannah Sparrows found 21 Sep at Sea Rim S.P., *Jefferson* were early (SM). Details of a Baird's Sparrow described from a brushy draw in w. *Jeff Davis* 23 Oct (F&JD) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Taylor Lakes, *Donley* 25 Sep (KS) was a welcome sight, and likewise a nice find inland, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow graced L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine* 13 Oct (DW). A White-winged Junco was at Caprock Canyon, *Briscoe* 30 Nov (†KC); if accepted it would be the 5th record of this subspecies for the state. A Slate-colored Junco on 6 Nov represented the 3rd record of Dark-eyed Junco on North Padre I., *Nueces*, but the first for this form (MC).

Black-headed Grosbeaks moved farther e. than normal this season, with scattered sightings from throughout the Oaks & Prairies region of cen. Texas. A late female Painted Bunting was at San Gabriel W.M.A., *Williamson* 17 Nov (BSt, EH). Eight Dickcissels at the Moon Ranch, *Jeff Davis* 28 Aug was a good find (JRe). A very late Dickcissel was at Hagerman, *Grayson* 25 Nov (BG, KL). A female Hooded Oriole at L. Worth, *Tarrant* 7 Sep (ph., †MR) provided a first area record. Surely unexpected was a Scott's Oriole at Muleshoe N.W.R. 5 Oct (BB, AF, JI, BPh). A small flock of Purple Finches in Spring Branch, *Blanco* 27

Nov (LLi) was a portent of things to come in the winter. A lone female Red Crossbill in the desert at Sam Nail Ranch in Big Bend 17 Aug (MF) was an unexpected sight.

UNDOCUMENTED SPECIES

The following Texas Bird Records Review Species and other statewide rarities were reported without documentation: Northern Goshawks at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 18 Oct and near Alpine, *Brewster* 22 Oct; Aplomado Falcon near Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 15 Nov; Thayer's Gull at White Rock L., *Dallas* 2 Nov; Northern Pygmy-Owl at Guadalupe Mts., *Culberson* 26 Aug; and Pine Grosbeak at Amarillo, *Randall* 7 Oct.

Cited observers (subregional editors in boldface): Peggy Acord, Mark Adams (MAd) (Trans-Pecos: HC75, Box 1337-B, Ft. Davis, TX 79734-5016. email: mta@astro.as.utexas.edu), Adrian Andrei, Karen Arquette, John Arvin, Michael Austin (MAu), Lyn Barber (LBa), Peter Barnes, Josh Berman (JBe), Brandon Best, Lorie Black (LBl), Charles Brower, John Brunjes (JBr),

olyn Cuthbertson, Fred & Judy Donaldson, Marc & Maryann Eastman, Carol Edwards, Dodge & Lorna Engleman, Jesse Fagan, Tim Fennell (TFe), Susan Fennewald, Rob Ferguson, Dixie Feuerbacher, Mark Flippo, Anthony Floyd, Bobbye Frazier (BoF), Brush Freeman (BFr), Bert Frenz (BeF) (East Texas: 221 Rainbow Dr., PMB 12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021. email: bert@bafrenz.com), Tony Gallucci, John Gee, Brian Gibbons, Steven Gross, Georgette Guernsey, Karl Haller, Curt Harwerth, Ian Hartzler, David Hedges (DHe), Matt Heindel, Rhandy Helton, Aveline Hewetson, Derek Hill (DHi), Jim Hines (JiH), Jim Hinson (JHi), Petra Hockey (PH), Erik Huebner, Janelle Hutchison (JHu), Phil Huxford (PHu), John Isanhart, Bernice & Ed Jackson, Lucy Jalbert (LJa), Denis James, Thomas L. Johnson (TLJ), Tom Johnson (TJ), Daniel Jones (DJo), Larry Jordan (LJo), George Jury, Mike Keck, Kiel Kenwood, Rich Kostecke, Ed Kutac, Greg Lasley (GL), Cindy Lee (CTL), Lee Lemmons (LLe), Greg Levandoski (GLE), Leslie Linehan (LLi), Brad Lirette, Keith Lockhart, Mark Lockwood, Laura Long (LLo), Robert & Kay Lookingbill, Guy Luneau (GLu), Steve Mayes, Don McColl (DoM), Tim Kaspar, Bill McKinney (BiM), Brad McKinney (BMc), Mark McKinney, Ester McMurry (EMc), Greg Mills, Elizabeth & Richard Moon, Derek Muschalek (DMu), Ian Nelson, Tracey Norris, Carolyn Ohl-Kolb (COK), Mike Overton, Jay Packer (JaP), Laura Packer, Richard Palmer, Dick Park (DPa), Jim Paton (JPa), Dwight Peake (DwP), Raul Pena (RPe), Tim Perkins, Bill Phelan (BPh), James Phelps (JPh), Barrett Pierce (BPi), David Powell (DPo), Sumita Prasad, Ross Rasmussen, Ellen Ratoosh (ERa), Jim Ray (JRa), Martin Reid, Jennifer Reidy (JRe), Bill Reiner, Helen Rezek, Alan Rockett, Chris Runk, George Russell, Monty Schoenhals, Rosemary Scott (RSc), Willie Sekula (Central Texas: 7063 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113-2627. email: wsekula@the-cia.net), Ken Seyffert (Northwest: 226 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), Jim Sipora (JSi), Leanna Smith (LSm), Eldon & Ruthie Sonnenberg, John Sproul (JSp), Jim Stevenson (JSt), Byron Stone (BSt), Glenn Swartz (GSw), Danny Swepston (DSw), Robert Truss, Don Verser (DVe), Darrell Vollert (DVo), Ron Weeks (RWe) (UTC: 110 Indian Warrior, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. email: igarapet@brazosport.cc.tx.us), Ed Wetzel, Joyce Wheeler (JoW), Don White (DWh), John Whittle (JWh), Sue Wiedenfeld (SWi), Allen Williams, David Wolf, Jimmy Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer. 🐦



Red-faced Warbler has become an annual late-summer visitor to the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend National Park, Texas. Four were documented this year, including this long-staying bird that was present 23 July—25 August 2002 (here 16 August). Photograph by Audrey Harvey.

Tim Brush, Kelly Bryan, Lawrence Buford (LBu), Frank Bumgardner, Winnie Burkett, Oscar Carmona, Eric Carpenter, David Cimprich, Sheridan Coffey, Tom Collins, Mel Cooksey (South Texas: 16 Townhouse Lane, Corpus Christi, TX 78412. email: ssi@stx.rr.com), Kelly Cotten (North-central Texas: 8626 Angora Street, Dallas, TX 75218. email: Schmotten@aol.com), Joe Cox, Car-