

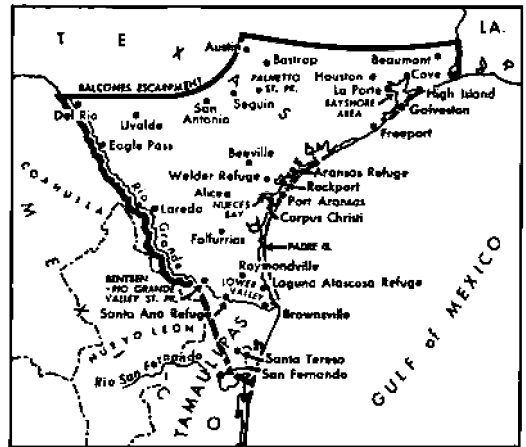
rows, wintering sparrows remained late at Amarillo (PA), Dallas (HN), Tyler (OCS) and Midland (M.N.). Grasshopper Sparrows were abundant near Sherman (KWH), Dallas (D.C.A.S.) and Tulsa (Tu.A.S.) in mid-April. A nest with four young was found in Pontotoc County, May 16, and another nest containing five eggs was located May 20 (WAC). Baird's Sparrows were found at Denison, Apr. 23 (KWH) and Wichita, Apr. 6 (KK). A Le Conte's Sparrow at Wichita, Apr. 13 was one of the few records there (KK) and 1 in Pontotoc Co., May 15 was unusually late (WAC). A nest of Bachman's Sparrow in Pontotoc Co. contained six eggs on May 7 and three young were fledged May 20 (JTG, WAC). A Cassin's Sparrow was collected May 25 in Noble Co., Okla. (JB) and singing birds were heard in Canadian and McClain Cos. in May (JGN). A Black-throated Sparrow was sighted at Clayton, Apr. 2 (WC). A Field Sparrow was still present at Fort Collins on May 15 (JC), and a Harris' Sparrow was at the same locality, May 5 (LM). A Golden-crowned Sparrow came to a feeder in Denver on Apr. 3 (CS et al). White-crowned Sparrows were still at Midland on May 24 (TSJ), Italy, Tex., May 15 (EWi) and Amarillo in late May (T.P.A.S.). Lincoln's Sparrows were present in Amarillo as late as May 24 (PA). Song Sparrows left Midland (M.N.) and Amarillo (PA) early and not a one was netted at Hays during the period (CAE).

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION / Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Temperatures near normal, rainfall below normal, winds high along the coast—these were the principal ingredients for a generally mediocre migration. Weatherwise it was a continuation of the winter season, with cool temperatures tapering off



seasonally. March had little rainfall; heavier showers were mainly confined to mid-April and mid-May. Concentrations of migrants, as usual, were associated with cold fronts and/or rainfall, and since both were rather scarce, so were well-defined waves. The exceptions receive more than the normal emphasis in this summary for lack of other newsworthy developments. One can point to the mid-May push at Austin and San Antonio as one of the greatest late waves on record, giving much weight to the impression of many observers that this year's migration was late—despite some very early observations to the contrary. At Austin, the big push was ushered in by a wind shift to the north between midnight and 0300 D.S.T. on May 19. The temperature drop was negligible, as was the trace of rainfall. Winds were easterly on May 20, temperatures slightly lower, and again a trace of rainfall was recorded. Sky cover averaged 80 per cent on both days, with midnight-to-dawn ceilings ranging from about 1400 to 5000 ft. on May 19 and 1900-4100 ft. on May 20. Migrants became conspicuous on May 19, increased sharply

in numbers on May 20, and tapered off on May 21. The wave evident at Galveston on May 12 was preceded by a general rain on the upper coast the day before, with northerly winds and a slight temperature drop. The May 1 and 2 wave at High Island was preceded by a weak cold front on April 30, but no rain was indicated. "A strong, windy, clear norther was blowing in" on the occasion of the wave at High Island on April 2 and 3 (DW). Another movement of cold air, with rain, set the stage for a lesser wave on the central coast on April 4 and 5. No doubt there were other waves of a general or local nature, perhaps some involving great numbers of birds, but these either remain unknown to the writer or details are lacking. In preparing this report the writer was faced with three major problems which are becoming more acute each spring: (1) Many competent and knowledgeable resident observers are not submitting reports, either to the writer or to local newsletters; (2) few transient birders submit reports; and (3) many reports are submitted minus numbers of individual birds of a species, which omissions render these reports useless in evaluating migration waves. The writer is grateful for all help received, but a sense of frustration and inadequacy accompanies the realization that the information at hand is only a fraction of that which could be made available. In this respect, writing the seasonal report is like trying to describe an iceberg from a surface vessel. For this report, a few observers furnished detailed accounts of big-volume days, hence their initials are encountered repeatedly. For the same reason, High I., Galveston and Austin receive more than their proper share of attention. It is regrettable that the Rio Grande Delta, the lower coast, and the central coast are so infrequently mentioned in the following pages.

LOONS, GREBES—Single **Red-throated Loons** were seen at Rockport Apr. 21 and near Aransas Pass June 5 (DNM & KM). A **Western Grebe** visited the La Porte area of Galveston Bay Apr. 24 (LS, GAT & JLT).

ANHINGAS, FRIGATEBIRDS—On Mar. 18, about 300 Anhingas circled over Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Refuge with incoming Broad-winged Hawks and Turkey Vultures before settling to spend the night. Smaller numbers were observed later in the month (WAS). A very early Magnificent Frigatebird was observed as it sailed inland from Corpus Christi Mar. 12 (DNM).

DUCKS—The first Fulvous Tree Duck was spotted at Santa Ana Refuge on the early date of Mar. 12 (WAS). Large numbers—also early—were reported in the Cove area of the upper coast in late March (fide AKM). Blue-winged Teal were noted in numbers at Cove Mar. 29 (AKM) and at Austin on April 10 (JLR).

HAWKS—A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen at Baytown on the early date Mar. 24 (DL). One at Rockport Apr. 17 was the first in 11 years (DNM). Details on several other sightings of this scarce

species have not been submitted. The Broad-winged Hawk migration began with 400 birds at Santa Ana Refuge Mar. 18, the same date on which the first birds have arrived for the past four years. On Mar. 28, 2000 were counted (WAS), and the migration continued into April. No large flights were reported from other areas, which is either a curious fact or represents an unfortunate breakdown in communications. Several lesser flights were noted at Baytown in late March (DL) and in the Cove area in late April (fide AKM). Extremely few Swainson's Hawks were reported.

CRANES, RAILS—The first Whooping Cranes, 33 in number, departed Aransas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge between the dates of aerial counts on March 30 and April 7. By April 13, only 6 of the 57 wintering birds remained on the refuge (RCB). The largest flight of Sandhill Cranes was reported at Austin Mar. 23 (JHG). This was a poor season for migrating rails in the Rockport area. "Our marshes are fast being filled in," Mrs. McGuire remarked. On Mar. 29 a Virginia Rail was noted at Cove for the first time since 1959 (AKM).

SHOREBIRDS—Comparatively few plovers landed in the Rockport area (DNM). Am. Golden Plovers appeared at Cove on the early date of Feb. 27. Peak numbers were present there (AKM) and in the Corpus Christi area (KM) Mar. 20-Apr. 3. Two individuals were seen at Austin on June 7 (JLR). A **Purple Sandpiper** was found by Feltner on Galveston's south jetty Mar. 29 (TBF, DD, AW, et al.). Two early Pectoral Sandpipers were found at Cove Feb. 26, but peak numbers were present Mar. 20-Apr. 10 (AKM). One was seen at Austin June 7 (JLR). The White-rumped Sandpiper was seen as early as Apr. 24 at Anahuac Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (CDF & DW) and as late as June 7 at Austin (JLR), but greatest numbers were present in the Region in mid-May. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in Matagorda Co. Apr. 3 (DW), an early date. Good numbers were found near Houston May 8 (DHH) and in Chambers Co. May 12 (VLE & JLR). A possible record high count of 389+ Hudsonian Godwits was made in a small area of rice fields in Chambers Co. May 12 (VLE & JLR). About 48 were observed in the Cove area May 14 (AKM). A bird believed to be a Reeve was studied carefully at Anahuac Refuge on April 26; Pectoral Sandpipers were nearby for the convenience of comparison (CLB, JAJ & JS). A count of 54 Am. Avocets at Austin on April 20 was high for the area (NC). Wilson's Phalarope reached peak numbers in late April but no large concentrations were reported.

GULLS, TERNS—A second-year **Glaucous Gull** was reported with Herring Gulls at Freeport's Bryan Beach Apr. 28 (JAJ). Following the report of a "large all-white gull" (JRS) at the west end of the San Luis Pass Bridge from Galveston I., a similar bird was found there with Herring Gulls Apr. 1 (MA & NCO). Careful study indicated a

second-year **Iceland Gull**. What was thought to be a different individual of this species was seen in the western part of Galveston Apr. 17 (GAT & JLT). The usual large flocks of Franklin's Gulls were absent from Rockport this season (DNM), nor were large concentrations reported elsewhere, with the exception of a flight at Austin Apr. 20 (NC). Two **Roseate Terns** were observed in the Port Lavaca area of Calhoun Co. Apr. 25 (JHP).

CUCKOOS, GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS—Reports of Black-billed Cuckoos were slightly more numerous than usual for this uncommon migrant, especially at San Antonio (AH, JAL), but Yellow-billed Cuckoos attracted little attention. At least 200 Com. Nighthawks were flying about the illuminated dome of the State Capitol building in Austin May 21 (JLR); apparently most of these birds were transients. The first Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at High I., a "migrant trap" in extreme Galveston Co., Mar. 12 (DW). It was early April before this species began to appear in numbers.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—Most flycatcher species did not appear in numbers until mid-May. This was particularly apparent at Austin; however, the scarcity of reports from coastal areas precludes any intelligent generalization for the Region. The E. Kingbird was the most abundant flycatcher in the Corpus Christi area; it was noted from Apr. 3 to May 23, although a major wave May 16 was outstanding (KM). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported scarce at Rockport (DNM). Empidonax species flycatchers were most abundant in the late migration. At Austin, a total of about 30 were counted May 19, but on May 20, 50 unidentified individuals and 20 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were counted (FO & JLR). Numbers dropped sharply after May 20. San Antonio observers reported peak migration at the same time. Empidonax species flycatchers were reported scarce at Corpus Christi (KM) and Rockport (DNM), but 25+ birds were counted in an all-day search in Galveston Co. May 12 (VLE & JLR). On the same run, 75 E. Wood Pewees were found. Hundreds of Barn Swallows were observed between Victoria and Aransas Refuge Apr. 17 (JHP & RZ).

CATBIRDS, THRUSHES—Catbird numbers were far below normal at Austin. At High I., Wolf observed 17 on May 1 and 46 on May 2. Swainson's Thrushes arrived on the coast late and in strength at the first of May. Wolf counted 83 at High I. on May 1 and 38 on May 2; 5 Grey-cheeked Thrushes were seen on each date. At Corpus Christi, about 50 thrushes (sp.) were seen in a city park May 2 & 3 (KM). In Galveston Co., 60+ Swainson's Thrushes were counted May 12, along with 5 Grey-cheeked Thrushes and 12 Veeries (VLE & JLR). Peak numbers of Swainson's Thrushes were reported at Austin with the late wave of May 20, but counts remained below normal.

GNATCATCHERS, VIREOS—Counts of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were below normal; the main movement occurred the second half of March and the first half of April. A **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher**, believed to be a first locality record, was seen in w. Travis County Mar. 26 (JA). A major wave of White-eyed Vireos occurred on the upper coast on April 2 & 3; Wolf found numbers near Sabine Pass Apr. 2 and counted about 100 birds in the live oak grove at High I. on both dates. He found about one-third as many birds in the Rockport area both Apr. 4 & 5. An early Bell's Vireo appeared at Cove Mar. 25, only the second spring record for that locality (AKM). A late Solitary Vireo was seen at Austin May 25 (JLR). A good early wave of Red-eyed Vireos was noted in the Rockport area Apr. 4 and 5, and a slightly lesser one at High I. May 1 & 2 (DW). An outstanding concentration was evident in Galveston Co. May 12, when more than 75 birds were counted. Ten Philadelphia Vireos were noted in the same wave (VLE & JLR).

WARBLERS—Black-and-white Warblers moved steadily through the Region between mid-March and mid-May, with peak numbers during the first week of April. Twenty-seven Prothonotary Warblers Apr. 4 and 14 on Apr. 5 (DW) were excellent scores for the Rockport area. Wolf found 5 in the Rio Grande Delta Apr. 7; this species is rarely reported for the delta. Several reports of Swainson's Warblers came from the upper coast in early April; this scarce migrant was found on n. Padre I. Apr. 5 (DW). Sightings of the Golden-winged Warbler on 7 different days in Austin was unusual. A **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid with white wing-bars was seen at High I. Mar. 28 (DD, VLE, AW, et al.). Another was seen at Santa Ana Refuge May 2; this bird was all white below (PH). A very late Orange-crowned Warbler was found at Austin May 19 (JLR). Nashville Warblers were, as usual, abundant at Austin. High counts were made between Mar. 26 and May 1; 3 late individuals were seen on May 20 (JLR). A ♂ **Virginia's Warbler** stopped to bathe at an Austin residence Mar. 18 (NC); there is no certified record for this species in central Texas. Yellow Warbler numbers were low in all areas reporting. A moderate influx of Magnolia Warblers was noted at High I. May 1 (DW). On May 12, 75+ were counted in Galveston Co. (VLE & JLR). A late peak was reached at Austin on May 20 & 21, with 65+ and 30 birds, respectively (FO & JLR). The rare **Cape May Warbler** was found at Galveston Apr. 22 (TBF, NP, JAT, et al.). Black-throated Green Warblers were less common than usual. A late Cerulean Warbler was seen at Austin May 18 (RAH). Few Blackburnian Warblers were reported. Chestnut-sided Warblers were late in appearing and were not common. Only two waves are worthy of mention: on May 12, 20+ were seen in Galveston Co., and on May 20, 30 were seen in Austin (FO & JLR). Except for a sur-

prisingly high count of 100+ in Galveston Co. on May 12 (VLE & JLR), Bay-breasted Warblers were hard to find. Very few Blackpoll Warblers were reported; however, 1 at San Antonio May 10 was newsworthy (JB & WS). A Prairie Warbler at High I. Apr. 25 (DW) represents one of the few spring records for the upper coast. A very late and rare (for the locality) Palm Warbler was seen at San Antonio May 21 (JAL & HOM). While not numerous, Ovenbirds had a long migration period, from late March to late May. A late peak count of 8 birds was made at Austin May 20 (FO & JLR), and 1 was seen at San Antonio June 12 (AH). An unusually heavy movement of Mourning Warblers occurred at Austin and San Antonio during the second half of May, particularly on May 19 & 20; 30 birds were counted at Austin on the latter date (FO & JLR). Two late birds were at Wimberley in Hays Co. on May 31 (CRB). Single MacGillivray's Warblers were reported at Austin on May 7, 19, 20 and 31 (FO, JLR). A major push of Yellowthroats reached the upper coast Apr. 2, as indicated by a count of 78+ at High I. (DW). A late wave at Austin was highlighted by a count of 80+ May 20 (FO & JLR). Wilson's Warblers reached a late peak at Austin between May 19 and 24, but numbers were down. Canada Warblers made a very good showing at Austin between May 20 (35+—FO & JLR) and 24; a few were noted as late as May 30. Am. Redstarts were reported less numerous than usual. Highest count was 75+ at Galveston May 12 (VLE & JLR). Thirty at Austin May 20 (FO & JLR) was a season high; a scarcity of males was noted.

ORIOLES, TANAGERS—Orchard Orioles were plentiful in the Corpus Christi area in April (KM), but except for a concentration near Sabine Pass on Apr. 2 (DW), this species attracted little attention on the upper coast. A Hooded Oriole was seen at Austin May 4 (JHG); this is a first locality record. On the basis of available reports, Baltimore Orioles had a very poor migration. A ♂ Western Tanager was seen at High I. May 1 (DW) and reportedly several days earlier. On Apr. 22, a bird of this species visited a certain tree in Rockport for the third consecutive year (DNM). Scarlet and Summer Tanagers received little comment.

FRINGILLIDS—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen as early as Mar. 25 at Cove (AKM) and as late as June 19 at Austin (JLR). A wave was reported at Corpus Christi during the first week of May (KM), and a number were found at High I. May 1 (DW) and in Galveston Co. May 12 (VLE & JLR). An unusual spring migrant, the Black-headed Grosbeak, was seen at Austin May 4 (NC), 5 and 9 (BR), at San Antonio May 8 (HGL), and at Baytown May 11-17 (fide DL). The best wave of Indigo Buntings in years was reported in the Corpus Christi area between mid-April and mid-May (KM). A push was apparent at Austin Apr.

16 (NC), at High Island Apr. 23 and May 1 (DW), and in Galveston Co. May 12 (VLE & JLR). The scarce Lazuli Bunting was found at Austin May 5 (NC). Painted Buntings came to Corpus Christi in large numbers on the night of Apr. 16 (KM), and many ♂♂ of this species were still moving up n. Padre I. Apr. 21 (WAP). Large flocks of Dickcissels were found at High I. and on Bolivar Peninsula Apr. 23 (DW), and between Victoria and Refugio (JHP) and at San Antonio Apr. 24 (HGL). A major movement of Lincoln's Sparrows occurred at Austin Apr. 4 (JLR), and a few were present into mid-May. A very late individual was seen at San Antonio May 24 (JAL).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION / Thomas H. Rogers

Much of the Region west of the Continental Divide experienced a cool, wet, windy spring. Spokane had about twice normal precipitation in April, but had temperatures of about 2° above

