

3 in *Comanche*, OK (J&LM); and Hooded Warbler Sept. 4 and Oct. 1 (possibly different birds) in *Finney*, KS (MO, m.ob.).

— Among other unusual e. warblers were a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Fontenelle Forest Sept. 4 (B&LP *et al.*), and a Blackburnian Warbler Aug. 31 in *Oklahoma* (JGN). Magnolia Warblers were more prominently reported this fall, with birds in *McClain*, OK Aug. 8 (PB; early); Fontenelle Forest Aug. 29–Sept. 2 (B&LP); *Muskogee*, OK Sept. 1 (JM); and *Stanton*, KS Sept. 16 (SP, MM, GP). Three Yellow-rumped Warblers Sept. 10 in *Sheridan*, NE may have been part of local post-breeding dispersal or very early migrants (RCR, DJR).

— Few fall records of Yellow-throated Warbler exist. One was noted Aug. 13 in *Johnston*, OK (PS *et al.*), and another Sept. 18 in *Tulsa* (PS, JL). A Pine Warbler in *Sarpy*, NE, Oct. 10 (B&LP) was tardy. Among the latest fall dates of Bay-breasted Warblers for Nebraska were one Oct. 11 in *Lancaster* (TL) and another Oct. 12 in Fontenelle Forest (JAL). Several scattered reports of Blackpoll Warblers were received, including one Oct. 1 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR), and another Oct. 9 in *Dawes*, NE (LKM).

— Western warblers included Townsend's Sept. 3 in *Cimarron*, OK (SM), Sept. 10 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR), Sept. 16 in *Stanton*, KS (SP, MM, GP), several Oct. 1 in *Finney*, KS (m.ob.), and two in *Morton*, KS Oct. 2 (SP, GP). Far from annual, a Black-throated Gray Warbler livened up the scenery in *Cimarron*, OK Sept. 3 (SM).

— Also pushing the season was a N. Waterthrush Nov. 2 in Fontenelle Forest (B&LP). Perhaps the best warbler find of the season was a **Connecticut Warbler** Sept. 3 in *Tulsa* (JL, PS). A tardy Wilson's Warbler Oct. 16 in downtown *Tulsa* may have been one earlier stunned on building windows and released (JA *et al.*).

— A Scarlet Tanager in *Sheridan*, NE Sept. 24 was the first in fall for the Nebraska panhandle (RCR, DJR). Northern Cardinals held out for another year in *Scottsbluff*, NE (AK), having arrived 2–3 years prior. An Indigo Bunting at Fontenelle Forest Oct. 13 (B&LP) was tardy. A Green-tailed Towhee Sept. 30 in *Morton*, KS (SP) was e. of most reported.

— A Lark Sparrow lingered to Nov. 7 in *Otoe*, NE (LF). A late nesting Grasshopper Sparrow was attending two juveniles Sept. 10 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR). A daily high count of 62 occurred Aug. 10 in *Scottsbluff*, NE (LKM).

— For some birds, it's just a matter of looking in the right place. Having a good year, or more regular than previously suspected, two–three Sharp-tailed Sparrows were located in *Saunders*, NE Oct. 2 (JJ) & 3 (B&LP). Six were found in *Washington*, NE Oct. 16 (JJ). Still others were observed Oct. 14 in *Gosper*, NE (LKM) and Oct. 21 in *Russell*, KS (MR).

— Early migrant White-crowned Sparrows appeared Sept. 9 in *Dawes*, NE (RCR). Also early

was a Lincoln's Sparrow Aug. 22 in *Dawes*, NE (LKM). A Swamp Sparrow Aug. 10 and Sept. 7 in *Garden*, NE probably summered (LKM). Very early was a Chestnut-collared Longspur Sept. 5 in *Morton*, KS (SS), with >20 in *Pawnee*, KS by Sept. 21 (SS). A Snow Bunting Nov. 5 in *Douglas*, NE (N&IR) was unusual.

— Among the earliest departing breeders, an Orchard Oriole Sept. 3 in *Tulsa* (TM) was tardy. A Purple Finch arrived in *Dixon*, NE Sept. 29 (JJ). Pine Siskins were generally scarce, but widely scattered. The only report of Red Crossbill outside the Nebraska panhandle, where they were not common (RCR), was of 15 in *Douglas*, NE Nov. 9 (N&IR). Much rarer was a White-winged Crossbill Nov. 7–8 in *Scottsbluff*, NE (AK). Only 2 observations of Evening Grosbeaks were reported, both for *Dawes*, NE (RCR, DJR).

### Corrigendum

An editing error miscredited the author of *Birds of the Lake McConaughy Area and the North Platte River Valley, Nebraska*. Richard Rosche is the author.

### Cited observers (area editors boldfaced):

KANSAS: Dave and Donna Baker, Mike Beck (MBe), Dave and Linda Bryan, Bill Busby, Ted Cable, Barbara Campbell, Bob Fisher, Tom Flowers, Pat Freeman, Greg Freisen, Chet Gresham (CGr), **Pete Janzen**, Dan Kilby, Dan LaSelle, Mike McHugh, **Lloyd Moore**, Marie Osterbuh, Chuck Otte, Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Mark Pheasant, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, John Rakestraw, Betty Rich, Leonard Rich, Scott Seltman, Tom and Sara Shane, Guy Smith, Joe Steiner, Max Thompson, Kevin Tunis, Don Vannoy, Phil Wells, Mike Whited, Dan Williams. NEBRASKA: Jim Alt (JAL), Mark Brogie, Stephen Dinsmore, Larry Einemann, Laurence Falk, Robin Harding, Thomas Hoffman, Bill Huser (BHu), Jan Johnson (JJo), Joel Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Lucy Koenig, Tom Labeledz, Larry K. Malone, Babs and Loren Padelford, Lanny Randolph (LRa), Neal and Izen Ratzlaff, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, **W. Ross Silcock**, Edna Clair Thomas. OKLAHOMA: Jim Arterburn, Karen Barker, Pat Bergey, David Brotherton, William A. Carter, Jay Cross, Margie Davis (MDa), Mike Duggan, Cynthia Goddard, Mike Goddard, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Jim Harmon, Berlin Heck, John and Betty Hohl, Kenn Kaufman, June Ketchum, Nathan Kuhnert, **Jo Loyd**, **Janet & Louis McGee**, **Jeri McMahan**, Ina Mery, John and Emma Messerley, Steve Metz, Terry Mitchell, **John G. Newell**, Dorothy Newell, Jim and Marion Norman, M. Rugg (MRu), Pat Seibert, Dave Stanbrough, Jack D. Tyler, Don Varner (DVr), Jeff Webster (JWe), Jim Woodard. —*Joseph A. Grzybowski, 715 Elmwood Drive, Norman, OK 73072.*

# Texas Region

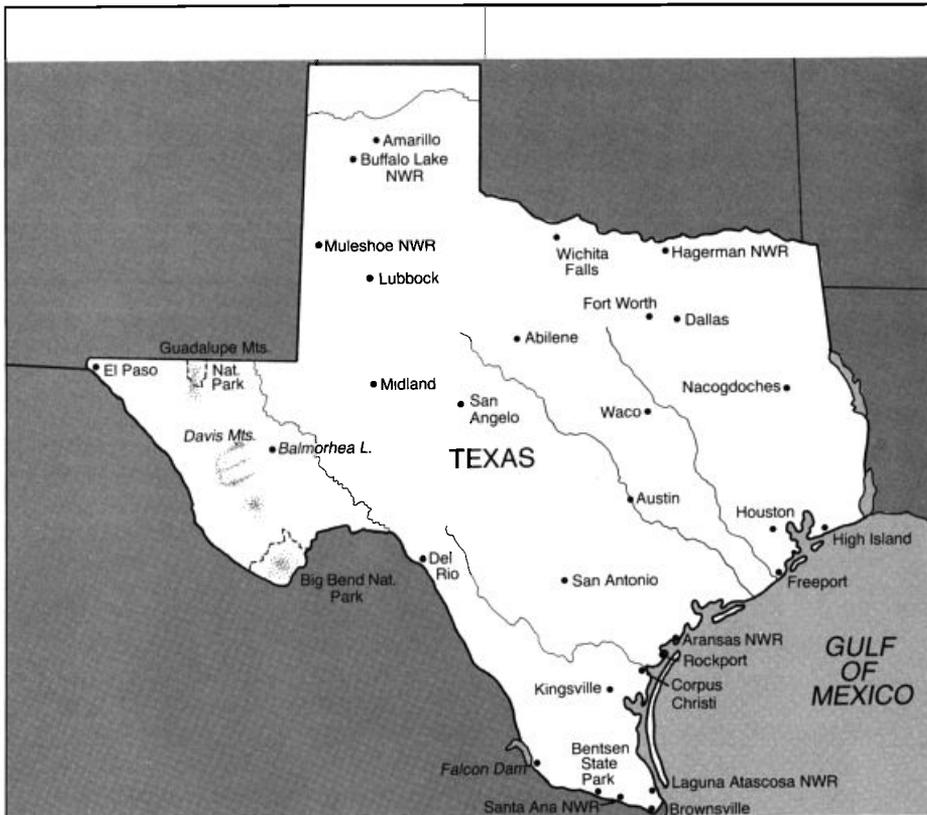
## GREG W. LASLEY, CHUCK SEXTON, MARK LOCKWOOD, AND WILLIE SEKULA

Although almost all regions in the state reported mild to unseasonably warm temperatures, this was yet another season of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer as for rainfall. The Trans-Pecos suffered its third straight parched summer and fall, while east and southeast Texas had heavy rains which mounted to torrential proportions in October. Heavy flooding made national news in the southeast corner of the state in late October. The heavy precipitation extended west to Austin, where nearly 24 inches of rainfall for the four-month period put them way above their annual total.

— An early mild cool front moved into central Texas August 8, bringing a few of the regular early migrants such as Black Terns and Yellow Warblers. Other fronts pushed progressively farther south about August 20 and September 23. The first strong cool front raced through the state October 7–10 and was perfectly timed to prompt some major hawk movements. Hawk watchers perched on high hills west of Austin October 9 missed the hawks but witnessed one of the most spectacular flights of Monarch butterflies in memory.

— There were more exciting finds on deep-water pelagic trips August 20 and September 24. Why did we in Texas wait so long to start doing this! These mounting pelagic observations have completely, if not unexpectedly, rewritten the book on our understanding of offshore avifauna. We were gratified to see a whole new set of names interspersed among our list of regular contributors statewide this season, suggesting to us the continuing value of this particular communication venue for birdwatchers across this vast state.

**Abbreviations:** Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains N.P.*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); S.S.W.T.P. (*South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee/Texas Ornithological Society*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Atwater, Bentsen, Big Bend, Buffalo Lake, Hagerman, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, and Santa Ana.



### Loons to Wood Stork

Pacific Loons made 3 appearances in Texas this season; singles were at L. Tawakoni Nov. 12–13 (†RR, RK *et al.*), Cooper L., *Delta*, Nov. 19 (MWh), and L. Texoma Nov. 27 († ph., BGi, PB). Up to 20 Least Grebes, including several nesting pairs, were at Attwater into mid-November (m.ob.). Four more Least Grebes were feeding young on the late date of Oct. 12 in *Calhoun*. A pair of Pied-billed Grebes were spotted with four young at S.S.W.T.P., Aug. 2–6 (BGi, PS), providing *Dallas* with its first nesting record since 1987. Two Horned Grebes in Lubbock Sept. 20 (CSt) were quite early, while another at Choke Canyon Nov. 20 (WS) was probably a first for *McMullen*. Elsewhere, 10 Horned Grebes in Amarillo Nov. 25 (KS) was a sizeable number for that area. Two Red-necked Grebes were well-described in Corpus Christi Nov. 20 (†GS), a very rare record for the Central Coast. A concentration of 500 Eared Grebes at Red Bluff L., Nov. 15 was noteworthy (KB). A small number of W. Grebes were scattered across n. Texas, where they are less frequently reported than in the Trans-Pecos. Three Cory's and  $\leq 15$  Audubon's shearwaters were seen on the Sept. 24 pelagic off Port O'Connor (†DPe, m.ob.). Building on the spring and summer reports, more Leach's and Band-rumped storm-petrels were discovered on pelagic trips out of Port O'Connor (†ME, DPe, ph., m.ob.). Six Leach's and four Band-rumped were found on an Aug. 20 trip; another Leach's was encountered Sept. 24. Six

Band-rumped seen on the latter date may represent the latest ever for the Gulf of Mexico. Two Masked Boobies spent most of the period in *Galveston*, while up to four others were seen on the Sept. 24 pelagic. The now-famous Blue-footed Booby at Lake L.B.J. was last reported Oct. 6. Stay tuned for a surprising development about this bird in our winter report. Over 2000 Am. White Pelicans were observed at Ft. Parker, *Limestone*, Sept. 24 (BFl), a notable inland concentration. Reflecting the increased coastal population, Brown Pelicans continue to be reported with increasing frequency inland; the most notable this season was an adult at L. Arrowhead, *Clay*, Aug. 6–Oct. 16 (DMc, RR *et al.*), and another (or possibly the same bird) at Eagle Mountain L., *Tarrant*, Oct. 29 (KO, NL). A first record for the South Plains was provided by a Neotropic Cormorant at Lubbock Oct. 12–Nov. 30 (CSt, m.ob.). Other unusual Neotropic records included  $\leq 18$  at Cooper L. during October and November (MWh), and single birds in *Polk* and *Angelina* during August (m.ob.). A single Least Bittern, a rarely observed species in n.c. Texas, was found at Cement Creek L., *Tarrant*, Aug. 16 (EW). Single imm. Little Blue Herons were found in Lubbock Aug. 15–17 (DSt, VW) and L. Tanglewood, *Randall*, Sept. 4 (TC, TLJ). The northernmost nesting colony of Cattle Egrets ever found in Texas was located in *Parmer* this season (CDL). Eight White Ibises at Grand Saline Marsh Aug. 14 (RK, GH, m.ob.) was the largest group observed in n.c. Texas. Two ad. Glossy Ibises seen at

Anahuac periodically in July and August (†JW) were last reported Sept. 4 (†GL); two other Glossies were at Attwater Sept. 5 (†GL), and another was reported in *Jefferson* Nov. 13 (†JW). A juv. Roseate Spoonbill was at Grand Saline Aug. 14 (RK *et al.*), another (or the same) was at Cooper L., Aug. 16–17 (MWh), while another was in far n.e. Texas in *Harrison* Sept. 7–13 (GLu). Other unusual spoonbill records included one at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant*, Aug. 20–Sept. 25 (*vide* EW) and another in *Jones* Sept. 3 (LB). Wood Storks were reported in increased numbers in the e. half of the state and in coastal locations. Seven storks were at L. Tawakoni, *Van Zandt*, Aug. 11 (RK); a remarkable 500 were in *Brazoria* Oct. 16 (WR) and a few storks remained at La Feria in s. Texas into November (*vide* TP).

### Waterfowl

The only Tundra Swans reported were two at L. Marvin, *Hemphill*, Nov. 25–30 (KS, EK *et al.*). The Greater White-fronted Goose migration in n.c. Texas was described as spectacular in the last half of October (*vide* RR), while the Snow Goose migration in mid-November in the same region was described as the largest ever seen by some observers. A Ross' Goose in *Tarrant* Nov. 17–20 (JWS, MP, GK, EW) provided an overdue first county record. A Brant at Lubbock Nov. 25 († ph., KN, HB) represents about the 10th documented Texas record. The bird was in a huge flock of Canada Geese and was apparently not relocated. Mottled Ducks are showing up in n. Texas more often; a pair was at Hagerman Sept. 18 (RR). A Mottled Duck at Temple Nov. 16–30 was also unusual (RPi). Even more unexpected was an apparent "Mexican" Mallard collected at Choke Canyon in mid-November (BrS), to our knowledge the first known occurrence in s. Texas away from the Rio Grande. Two Cinnamon Teal at S.S.W.T.P., Sept. 17 were a good find for that area (PS). A possible Eur. Wigeon was at Austin Oct. 20–21 (JoW *et al.*), while other single ad. ♂ Eurasians were well documented at Laguna Atascosa Nov. 1–30 (E.B.N.T., † ph., BM, WS *et al.*) and L. Marvin Nov. 23–29 († ph., GL, CJ, m.ob.). An estimated 240,000 Redheads were at Laguna Atascosa in early November (*vide* BM). An Oldsquaw was at San Antonio's Mitchell L., Nov. 23–26 (WS), while another was at Cayo del Grullo, *Kleberg*, Nov. 30+ (JAb). Several Surf Scoters were scattered across the state; the most unusual was on a small *Jeff Davis* pond Nov. 15 (ph., KB). Curiously, there were no Black Scoters reported, but three White-wingeds were at Lake O'The Pines Nov. 11 (HB, KN, CCo), two more were in Lubbock Nov. 16

(PK), and yet another was at Cayo del Grullo Nov. 26+ (A&MC). Hooded Mergansers were generally considered more common than normal in the n.w. part of the state with 200 at Red Bluff L., *Loving*, Nov. 15 (KB), the most notable individual record. Over 400 Com. Mergansers at Red Bluff Nov. 15 (KB) was a very large number for that area, while one on salt water in *Nueces* Nov. 24 (ME) was quite unusual. A Red-breasted Merganser in *Childress* Nov. 26 provided a rare Panhandle record, while 100 Red-breasteds at L. Arrowhead near Wichita Falls the same date were also quite unexpected (GL, CJ). Up to 10 Masked Ducks remained at Artwater through mid-September; at least one lingered there through October. One Masked Duck was reported at Santa Ana Aug. 21 (*fide* TP), while two others were at Brazos Bend Nov. 19–30 (WR).

### Raptors

A stunning 3500 Turkey Vultures were observed migrating along the e. shore of L. Tawakoni Oct. 23 (RK, JN). A group of six Swallow-tailed Kites were over Kingsville during early September (BS). The most far-ranging Swallow-tailed was a bird seen Aug. 27 at Abilene (†CF). Another far-ranging kite, a White-tailed, was photographed near San Angelo Nov. 12 (MCr, m.ob.) providing the first documented Concho Valley record. Very surprising was a N. Goshawk reported at Imperial Res., *Pecos*, Sept. 30 (†BJP). Harris' Hawks are up to something. They seemed more common in their regular range and small numbers invaded the U.T.C., where they are rare. Elsewhere an amazing 11 were near Sundown, *Cochran*, Nov. 20 (ph., GL, CJ), providing a rare record for the South Plains. Also seldom reported in the South Plains, a Red-shouldered Hawk was seen in Lubbock Sept. 12–19 (JCI, PK). After the first "real" cool front of the period, hawk watchers at Smith Pt., *Chambers*, reported 100,000 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 23, part of a stunning seasonal total of 738,000 Broad-winged there. At our historical hawk watching hot spot, Hazel Bazemore Park at Corpus Christi, a total of 262,000 Broad-winged Hawks passed by in late September (*fide* JE). An ad. light-morph **Short-tailed Hawk** was well-described at Santa Ana Oct. 4 (BZ) for the 3rd documented state record. A flight of 1000 Swainson's Hawks passed over Salado Oct. 8 on the heels of a strong cool front (RPi). Two days later, undoubtedly carried by the same storm, a huge flight of Swainson's was detected over Santa Ana (*fide* TP); the latter flock was reported as "almost 100,000 birds," but this would be several times larger than the largest flight

ever previously detected in North America. Whatever the number, it must have been an impressive sight. A Zone-tailed Hawk, very rare and unseasonal, was observed in *Kenedy* Aug. 2 (OC). Another unexpected Zone-tailed was near the *Irion/Reagan* line Nov. 11 (T.O.S.). A few early Merlins in mid-September on the Central Coast were a prelude to a fairly good influx noted almost statewide later in the season. Unexpected Prairie Falcon sightings included individual birds in *Nueces* Sept. 15, 18, & 28, and Oct. 16 (P&NP, GS). Another Prairie Falcon at Uvalde Oct. 1 (E&SWie) was also early.

### Rails to Shorebirds

A Yellow Rail in Lubbock Sept. 8 (PK) was one of only a very few records for that area of the state. Several King Rails, always hard to find in n.c. Texas, were reported; one was at Grand Saline Aug. 28 (RK) and one–three were reported occasionally at Cement Creek L., *Tarrant*, from Aug. 13–Sept. 25 (*fide* EW). Nine Am. Golden-Plovers were very unseasonal at Choke Canyon Nov. 20–Dec. 3 (WS, JMu), as was one at Mitchell L., Nov. 27 (WS). Two Semipalmated Plovers Nov. 5 at Midland (FW) were quite late. A group of 120 Mt. Plovers Nov. 13 just e. of Eden, *Concho* (CS, GL, CJ), represented the largest number reported in that region in recent years. At least 20 of these birds were still there Nov. 19 (GL, CJ). A group of 750 Long-billed Curlews were counted e. of Sinton Sept. 12 (RLi). Farther north, 145 Long-billed near Hart, *Castro*, Nov. 25 (EK, PT) and 35 in *Briscoe* (GL, CJ) the same date represented late Panhandle records. A single Hudsonian Godwit at L. Balmorhea, *Reeves*, Aug. 7 (JG) was very noteworthy, the species had not been reported in the Trans-Pecos in over 25 years. Single Marbled Godwits were at Miller's Creek L., *Baylor*, Aug. 14 (KH *et al.*) and Sept. 4 (RR). Another was at Hagerman Sept. 14–18 (KH *et al.*). Most unusual were two Red Knots at L. Buchanan Nov. 16 (E&SWie). Details on a Curlew Sandpiper reported in *Jefferson* Nov. 24 (JW) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C.; there are but 5 previous records for this species in Texas, 2 others this year alone. More than 300 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at a pond in s. Kleberg Aug. 27 (N&PP). An early Com. Snipe was seen at Cooper L., Aug. 16 (MWh). There were a scattering of Red-necked Phalaropes in c. and s. Texas during August and September.

### Jaegers to Terns

A Parasitic Jaeger delighted observers at Corpus Christi from Sept. 3+ (JDa, GS, MC, ph. *et al.*). Single Laughing Gulls visited Cooper L. throughout the season (MWh).

Also far afield were two Laughing Gulls flying down the Rio Grande in Big Bend July 25 (JG) and another (juvenile) at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, Aug. 1 (BZ). A flight of 3000 Franklin's Gulls Oct. 27–29 at Cooper L. was a nice concentration (MD), while a very early Bonaparte's Gull was in *Galveston* Oct. 14 (PDH). A few of the California Gulls at Cooper L. lingered into November but were difficult to find (MWh, RR). Elsewhere, a juv. California Gull was at McNary Aug. 1 (BZ), an adult was at L. Texoma Nov. 5 (†RR), and a first-winter bird was reported at L. Buchanan Nov. 13 (†SML, LS). There were at least four Lesser Black-backed Gulls along the coast during October and November, including the Mustang I. bird back for its 12th consecutive year at the same section of beach. Farther north, an apparent first-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Lubbock Nov. 25 (†ph., KN, HB). This gull, which had been present for some time before it was identified, will represent the first record for the South Plains if accepted. A juv. Sabine's Gull was at San Antonio's L. Calaveras Sept. 17 (†WS) and an adult was at L. Grapevine, *Denton/Tarrant*, Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (†EW, JWS). A very rare record for the South Plains was provided by a Caspian Tern at Lubbock Aug. 15 (PK). To the east, a phenomenal 90 Caspian Terns were counted at Cooper L., *Delta*, Sept. 17 (MWh). The Sept. 24 pelagic off Port O'Connor tallied 20 Bridled and 15 Sooty terns (ME, DPe, m.ob.).

### Doves to Swifts

The White-winged Dove range expansion continued; six were seen in Lubbock (DSt, RWi). Inca Doves, like their larger cousins, are showing up with increasing frequency in the South Plains and Panhandle; 17 were in an Amarillo yard during the season (RiW). A Com. Ground-Dove in Midland Oct. 16–17 (RMS, JMe) was the first there since 1991. A single White-tipped Dove was in Corpus Christi Aug. 3–Oct. 24 (GS). Green Parakeets and Red-crowned Parrots continued to attract attention in the L.R.G.V. and elsewhere. Flocks of over 100 of each species were seen in McAllen and Brownsville, with lesser numbers in Harlingen (m.ob.). Twelve Green Parakeets were in Corpus Christi Oct. 24–Nov. 17 (GS). Rare in fall, Black-billed Cuckoos were reported at Cooper L., Sept. 3 (MWh) and Sept. 25 (DHa), *Tarrant* Oct. 1 (*fide* EW), and in *Chambers* Oct. 9 (JW). A Groove-billed Ani at Cooper L., Oct. 2 (MWh) provided a rare n.e. Texas record. A Flammulated Owl was found at Midland Oct. 11 (RMS) providing the 3rd record for that area, while farther west, a N. Saw-whet Owl at El Paso Aug. 3 (MWh) was probably an early migrant from a breeding population

in New Mexico. A Chuck-will's-widow in Midland Aug. 20–21 (RMS, SS) provided a first county record. Somewhat unexpected in fall, Whip-poor-wills were reported more often than normal; the most notable were 20 seen in Corpus Christi's Blucher Park Oct. 9 (ML). A pale-rumped *Chaetura* swift, very suggestive of Vaux's, was studied Oct. 3 at Grand Prairie (KN, † to T.B.R.C.). Vaux's Swift has never been documented in this state, but its occurrence is to be expected. Interestingly, three *Chaetura* swifts over the Davis Mountains Sept. 13 (PH) were far from the normal haunts of Chimney Swifts in the Trans-Pecos.

### Hummingbirds to Woodpeckers

A Broad-billed Hummingbird reported in Llano last year returned to the same feeder Oct. 2 and remained into November (B&JMa). The White-eared Hummingbird reported near Ft. Davis in the summer lingered through August but was hard to find (*vide* KB). Another White-eared Hummingbird at El Paso Oct. 12–20 (EM, † ph., BZ) provided a first record there, and the 6th for Texas. A Blue-throated Hummingbird at a Balmorhea feeder (TJ) was notable for the location and elevation. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds continue to be seen in fall in above-average numbers in the Trans-Pecos, with one Sept. 14–15 (JP) providing the 2nd *El Paso* record. The unusual number of Calliope Hummingbirds observed in the summer continued, with birds in Lubbock, Amarillo, Midland, Ingram, Dripping Springs, and elsewhere. Most notable was a Calliope captured and banded at Driftwood, *Hays*, Nov. 7 (ph., DC). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were widespread in small numbers across much of s. and w. Texas. Rufous Hummingbirds seemingly invaded Texas this season, with literally dozens of reports in c. and s. Texas and others as far northeast as Lindale, *Smith*, and *Van Zandt*. Up to three probable Allen's Hummingbirds were near Ft. Davis in early August (KB, JG, † to T.B.R.C.). A Ringed Kingfisher in Corpus Christi Aug. 24–Nov. 12 (GS) and another near Kingsville Oct. 30 (E.B.N.T.) were noteworthy. Higher than normal numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers suggested a fall movement into n.e. Texas; further indicators of such an influx were two in Corpus Christi Sept. 24–Oct. 15 (CC, A&MC, E&NA) and another in *Tom Green* Nov. 10 (EK). Red-bellied Woodpeckers also wandered w. of their normal range with one at Buffalo Lake Sept. 25 (JHa), one in Amarillo Nov. 7–8 (KS), and one in Lubbock Nov. 9 (PK). A Red-naped Sapsucker at Austin Oct. 9 (BR) was e. of its normal

range. A N. Flicker was very early at Corpus Christi Aug. 4 (GS).

### Flycatchers to Swallows

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was netted, banded, and photographed Sept. 1 in the Davis Mountains (D&LH, KB) providing only the 3rd documented record for the Trans-Pecos. A breakdown of 77 *Empidonax* identified by Littlefield on the w. half of the South Plains this season indicated 28 Least, 24 Willows, 11 Dusky, nine "Western," and five Hammond's. Gray Flycatchers, rare in fall in Big Bend, were observed along the Rio Grande Aug. 3 (JG) & 7 (GL). A probable "Western" Flycatcher was in *Travis* Sept. 16 (BFR), while a very well-described Cordilleran Flycatcher was at Grand Prairie Sept. 25 (†KN). An apparent Dusky-capped Flycatcher was at Midland Sept. 3 (RMS, DHu, FW, † to T.B.R.C.); there are but 4 accepted records of this species in Texas despite many "reports" over the years. Tropical Kingbirds remained at the *Cameron* locations where they have been found for several seasons. A flock of 400 Bank Swallows at L. Arrowhead, *Clay*, Aug. 13 (DMc, JMc) was a notable concentration for that area. One–six Cave Swallows were noted at Attwater Oct. 29–Nov. 12 (WR), further evidence of the continuing expansion of this species. Two Barn Swallows at L. Tanglewood in Amarillo Nov. 19 (TLJ) represented the latest record ever for that area.

### Jays to Shrikes

"Mini-invasions" of 3 species of jays were noted. Steller's Jays moved into the foothills of the Guadalupe and Davis Mts., with one at Big Bend Ranch, *Presidio*, Oct. 22 (PE) the most unusual record. A dramatic increase in Blue Jay numbers was noted in the e. Hill Country (JA, CS), while a minor irruption of this species was seen in parts of s. Texas with several noted along the Coastal Bend and into Kingsville during October and November (N&PP, m.ob.). The most widespread invasion, however, may have involved Scrub Jays: The species invaded the Panhandle and four birds at Midland in September and October were the first there in 20 years (*vide* FW). Unprecedented numbers moved S onto the n. portion of the Rio Grande plain, as suggested by 14 in s. *Kinney* Oct. 31, one in La Pryor, and one in *Dimmit* Nov. 1 (JA). Four Green Jays in *Victoria* Oct. 14 (PWH) provided a very rare record for that area. A Fish Crow in *Harrison* Nov. 19 (GLu) was noteworthy; the species has only been noted in the Lake O'The Pines area for about a year. A Chihuahuan Raven at Rockport Oct. 22 (CC)



**Northern Wheatear at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, Nov. 3, 1994. A first for Texas, it was about as far south in the United States as the species could get. Photograph/Mike Pawlick.**

was unexpected. After several recent sightings, Midland finally got its first nesting record of Carolina Wrens when a pair was seen with fledglings Sept. 5 (RMS, DK). Early Winter Wrens included one–five in Corpus Christi Oct. 8 & 11 (*vide* GS), and one in *Victoria* Oct. 10 (NH). One–three singing Sedge Wrens in *Delta* Aug. 22–31 surprised M. White. Emanuel reported 300 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Bentsen Sept. 12. On the following day at Rancho Santa Margarita, *Starr*, he counted migrating Blue-gray Gnatcatchers passing downstream along the Rio Grande at a rate of about 500 per hour.

The rarity of the season was certainly the Northern Wheatear at Laguna Atascosa Nov. 1–6 (KT, † ph., BM, HVS, JG, GL, T&PF, m.ob.). This species, a first for Texas, had been recorded in Louisiana recently and had been anticipated in Texas for years. Still, this delightful visitor entertained hundreds of birdwatchers from the First Annual Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in Harlingen as it foraged along a beach with Horned Larks. There were unconfirmed reports that this bird was seen for a month or more beyond the dates mentioned above.

A single W. Bluebird in Lubbock Nov. 25 (KN, HB) was described as "a good find," however, the cedar thickets of the upper Concho Valley (e.g. in *Coke* and *Sterling*) harbored substantial numbers of all 3 bluebird species by mid-November (T.O.S.). A Wood Thrush in *Rusk* Nov. 8 (DWe) was late. Gray Catbirds were unusually common in parts of w. Texas with seven or more scattered across the Trans-Pecos Oct. 5–Nov. 2 (*vide* KB) and five in Brackettville Oct. 29 (JA). A Sage Thrasher photographed at Lake O'The Pines Nov. 6 (HB, KN) provided a first record for n.e. Texas. Sprague's Pipits at

Muleshoe Nov. 24 & 27 (KN, HB) were unusual for that area. A juv. Cedar Waxwing was netted and banded in the Davis Mountains Sept. 8 (D&LH), leading to speculation of local nesting. A Phainopepla at Muleshoe Sept. 24 (L.E.A.S.) and another in Tarrant Oct. 12 provided rare locality records. A N. Shrike at L. Marvin Nov. 26–30 (GL, CJ, m.ob.) was the only one reported for the fall.

### Vireos to Warblers

A Solitary Vireo in Smith Sept. 12 (DWe) and another Sept. 26 in San Patricio (E&NA) were early. A Golden-winged Warbler Sept. 17 (RK) was a first for Van Zandt. A Tennessee Warbler at Ft. Bliss Oct. 15 (BZ) and another at Big Bend Ranch, Presidio, Oct. 28 (JG) provided rare Trans-Pecos records. A N. Parula at Hueco Tanks Aug. 6 (CW) was far west, while another at Canyon, Randall, Oct. 25 (PT) was very late for the Panhandle. Rare for fall were single Cape May Warblers Sept. 10–13 in Flower Mound, Denton (JWS, MP), Sept. 30 at High I. (ML), and Oct. 27 in Corpus Christi (*vide* GS). Seven Black-throated Blue Warblers were at scattered areas in the e. half of the state in September & October, but one at Lajitas Oct. 10 (JH) provided a very rare Trans-Pecos record. Hermit Warblers were seen at lower elevations than normal, with one at Davis Mountains S.P., Aug. 26 (KB *et al.*) and two at El Paso Sept. 13 and Oct. 14–18 (BZ). Other rare w. Texas warblers included a Blackpoll at Ft. Bliss Oct. 13 (BZ), a Louisiana Waterthrush at G.M.N.P., Aug. 10 (DB), one Prairie at Buffalo Lake Sept. 15 (KS), a Red-faced at El Paso Aug. 16 (†JP, DE), and an amazing imm. Olive Warbler at Big Bend Ranch Sept. 7 (†JG, CE, KB). Warblers of note in other areas included single late Worm-eaters Oct. 20 in San Patricio (*vide* GS) and Oct. 24 at High I. (ML); a MacGillivray's, rare on the Coastal Bend, at Corpus Christi Sept. 20 (A&MC); and a Townsend's in Travis Oct. 8 (BFr).

### Tanagers to Finches

A Scarlet Tanager in Rusk Aug. 27 (PeH) represented a first fall record for n.e. Texas, while a late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Longview Nov. 11 (DWe). Two Brewer's Sparrows Aug. 19 in the Davis Mountains were very early (D&LH). Rarely reported inland in Texas, two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen in Kendall Sept. 27 (E&SWie), and one was in Delta Oct. 14 (MWh). The Golden-crowned Sparrow reported at Hueco Tanks last winter returned Oct. 23 to its same haunts (SHo, † ph., m.ob.). A Harris' Sparrow at Grandfalls Nov. 8 (BJP)

provided a rare w. Texas record. Banding totals showed Dark-eyed Juncos, along with Chipping and White-crowned sparrows, to be 3 times more common than normal in the Davis Mountains (*vide* KB). A Northern "Bullock's" Oriole at Cooper L., Oct. 6 (MWh) was apparently a first for n.e. Texas. Finally, a curious *Sporophila* species seedeater was near Long Mott, Calhoun, Aug. 6 (BO, ME, BFr). It was clearly not a White-collared, but its positive identification was never determined.

### Addenda

Two important records from n.e. Texas were mistakenly omitted from last winter's report. A dark-morph Ferruginous Hawk was at Longview Jan. 1, 1994 (N.E.T.F.O.), and a Wilson's Plover, normally a strictly coastal sp., was carefully described from a small pond on the Gregg/Harrison line also on Jan. 1, 1994 (N.E.T.F.O.).

**Cited observers (Subregional Editors in boldface):** Jean Abney (JAB), Peggy Acord, Rich & Nanette Armstrong, Keith Arnold, Nina & Eddie Arnold, Art & Donna Artega, John Arvin, Elaine Banks, Al Bassinger, Giff Beaton, Peter Billingham, Nancy Bird, Lorrie Black, Hazel Bluhm, Bebe Boren, David Bradford (East Texas: 18046 Green Hazel, Houston, TX 77084), Craig & Karen Braginton, Sara Brotherton, Shirley Brotherton, Walter Brotherton, David Brotherton (DBro), Hugh Brown, Kelly Bryan (Trans-Pecos: P.O. Box 786, Ft. Davis, TX 79734), Frank Bumgardner, Winnie Burkett, Fern Cain, Taylor Carlisle, Oscar Carmona, Jack Childs, Jeremy Clark (JCl), Charlie Clark, Don Connell, Arlie Cooksey, Mel Cooksey, Carmen Cox (CCo), Joe Cox, Charles Crabtree, Mary Creel (MCr), Wesley Cureton, Joe Davidson (JDa), Louis Debetaz, Mike Dillion, Gladys Donohue, Laurence Dumon, Early Bird Nature Tours (E.B.N.T.), Charles Easley, John Economidy, Carol Edwards, Mark Elwonger, Victor Emanuel, Doug Emkalns, Pansy Espy, Craig Farquher, Bennie Flatt (BFl), Fort Worth Audubon Society, Tony & Phyllis Frank, Brush Freeman (BFr), John Gee, Gene Grimes, Karl Haller, James Hamous (JHa), Peggy Harding (PeH), George Harmon, Pat Hartigan, Dale Hartsfield (DHa), Steve Hawkins, Carl Haynie, David & Linda Hedges, Bob & Nancy Highgate, Jim Hines, Gary Hodnee, Norman Holgerson, Sallie Homan (SHo), Jenny Hoskins, Ron Huffman, P.D. Hulce, Don Hunter (DHu), Joe Ideker, Hugh Jameson, Lance Jett, Cheryl Johnson, Corky Johnson (CoJ), Tom Johnson, Thomas L. Johnson (TLJ), Greg

Keiran, Donna Kelly, Richard Kinney, Phillip Kite, Ed Kutac, Greg Lasley, Nancy LeMasurier, Lee Lemmons, Linda Lewis, Ray Little (RLI), C.D. Littlefield, Llano Estacado Audubon Society, Mark Lockwood, Guy & Joan Luneau (G&JLu), Halsey Marsden, Julia Marsden, Jean Martin, James & Betsy Massey (J&BMa), Eve McCullough, Debra McKee (DMc), June McKee (JMc), Brad McKinney, Ruthie Melton, Don & Joann Merritt (D&JMe), Renee Mesina, Bob Metzger, Carol Mitchell, Steve Mlodinow (SMI), Derek Muchalek (DMu), Ken Nanney, Northeast Texas Field Ornithologists (N.E.T.F.O.), Julius Nussbaum, Ken O'fill, Alfred Olivas, Brent Ortego, Nancy & Paul Palmer (South Texas: 615 S. Wanda, Kingsville, TX 78363), Jim Paton, Mike Patterson, Frank Peace, Dwight Peake (DPe), Rebecca Peterson, Tom Pincelli, Randy Pinkston (RPi), Barbara Jean Potthast (BJP), Alice Rassa, Ross Rasmussen (N.C. Texas: 600 S. Graves #1704, McKinney, TX 75069), Martin Reid, Bill Reiner, John & Barbara Ribble, Kay Rice, Jan & Will Risser, Ernie Roney, San Antonio Audubon Society, Paul Saraceni, Susie Schneider, Rosemary Scott, Willie Sekula (Central Texas: Rt. 1, Box 130, Falls City, TX 78113), Larry Semo, Chuck Sexton, Ken Seyffert (Panhandle: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), J.W. Sifford, John Sproul, Sara St. Clair, June Stacy, Darleen Stevens (DSt), Cliff Stogner (CSt), Rose Marie Stortz (RMS), Bob Sullivan, Bryan Sullivan (BrS), Jim Sullivan, Glenn Swartz, Delbert Tarter, Texas Ornithological Society (T.O.S.), Kevin Thornton, Peggy Tosper, Carl Turner, Al Valentine, Henry von Staden (HvS), Virgil Wade, Ro Wauer, Chad Wayne, David Weaver, Ed Wetzel, Marcia Wheatley, John White (JoW), Matt White (MWh), John & Jana Whittle, Egon & Sue Wiedenfeld (E&SWie), Rick Wiedenmann, Richard Wilberforce, Frances Williams, Roena Willingham (RWil), Greer Willis, Petra Wirths-Hockey (PWH), Ad York, Jimmie Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer.

—Greg W. Lasley, 305 Loganberry Ct., Austin, TX 78745–6527, Chuck Sexton, 101 E. 54th St., Austin, TX 78751, Mark Lockwood, 2309 Berkeley #1104, Austin, TX 78745, and Willie Sekula, RT. 1, Box 130, Falls City, TX 78113.