

reporting from Nebraska (*fide* WRS, JGJ). More than the usual, about 13 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported (mostly from Nebraska) Sep. 21 (*Lancaster/Saunders*, NE; JS) to Oct. 23 (*Otoe*; NE, LE). Always worth noting, Baird's Sparrows were reported from *Seward*, KS, Oct. 25 (MR) and *Pawnee*, KS, Oct. 28 (SS). Encouraging was a count of 1230 McCown's Longspur in *Kimball*, NE, Oct. 13, clearly indicative of peak movement.

Purple Finches are becoming scarce in the Region, with almost none reported. No outburst of Red Crossbills occurred this season, and there were only a few scattered records in Nebraska away from breeding areas, with three in *Sedgwick*, KS, Nov. 11 (JN). Extralimital was a Lesser Goldfinch in *Creek*, OK, Oct. 3 (JWA).

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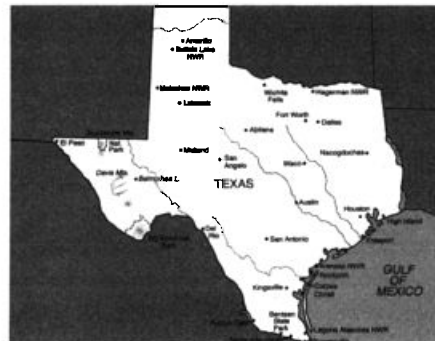
texas region

**GREG W. LASLEY,
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There never seems to be an even keel in Texas weather. The brutally hot summer was extending its reach into Aug., when slow moving cool fronts crept through Aug. 3–7 and again Aug. 10–15. It wasn't particularly cool after those initial offerings, but they did begin to bring some local relief from the drought. Tropical weather in late Aug. signaled the beginning of the end of drought, yet the low water level at Sam Rayburn Reservoir in east Texas still allowed for good shorebird habitat well into Sep. As Oct. passed, most weather worries were about the disastrous flooding! Moisture training north from two hurricanes off of southwest Mexico and an advancing cold front brought a deluge to the eastern edge of the Hill Country for "Octoberfest" (ca. Oct. 17). The Trans-Pecos and Panhandle were still complaining about the heat in Oct. and Nov., but at least the latter area got one good downpour that filled Buffalo Lake for the first time in 20 years. Truly cold weather did not arrive until the very end of the period; many observers mentioned the wildflowers still blooming during their Thanksgiving holiday.

Two pelagic trips on Aug. 8 and Sep. 5 brought the now-expected array including Audubon's Shearwaters, storm-petrels, and pelagic terns. In fact, we will henceforth skip over the latter group in future reporting on pelagic trips—remarkable since Bridled Tern was considered an exceptional rarity as recently as 1990.

Fall invasions began to take shape in Oct. There was a clear movement of Blue Jays into Texas starting in late Sep., the first sizeable invasion in four years. Blue Jays were noted passing by the thousand at Cooper Lake in n.e. Texas, and just days later hawk-watchers at Smith Point, Hazel Bazemore, and Balcones Canyonlands were remarking about the species. The jays spread well into the Hill Country and eventually reached the Devil's River, Del Rio, and the upper part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Another conspicuous invader was Golden-crowned



Kinglet, which graced the eastern three-fourths of the state, arriving in good numbers Oct. 20–23. There were lesser movements of Brown Creepers, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Downy Woodpeckers, and a number of western species such as Sage Thrasher and Pyrrhuloxia inched a bit eastward. American Robins, of all species, actually drew notice with their high numbers in many areas.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Ft. Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park*); 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*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection, Texas A&M University*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Attwater, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Brazos Bend, Caprock Canyon, Choke Canyon, Hagerman, Hazel Bazemore, Laguna Atascosa, Palo Duro, San Bernard, and Santa Ana.

LOOKS THROUGH VULTURES

A Red-throated Loon at Cooper L., Delta, Nov. 15 († MWh) was the only report of the season. Of three Pacific Loon records, the most significant was at White River L., Crosby, Nov. 13–15 (CSt, AF). Least Grebes seemed to respond well to the fall rains, with nesting reported at N. Padre I., Beeville, and Choke Canyon. Extralimital Least Grebes showed up at Brazos Bend Nov. 9 and L. Alcoa, Milam, Sep. 12 (BFR). There were unprecedented numbers of W. Grebes in the Panhandle and South Plains, with 14 reported during Nov. from *Randall, Hutchinson, Potter, Lubbock, and Crosby*. In the El

Table 1. Significant Waterbird Records from Tropical Storm Frances

Common Name	Maximum #	Location	Dates
Band-rumped Storm Petrel*	1?	Calaveras L., <i>Bexar</i>	September 12
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	1	Riviera, <i>Kleberg</i>	?
Magnificent Frigatebird	29	S. Padre I.	September 11
Magnificent Frigatebird	5	Lewisville L., <i>Denton</i>	September 12
Magnificent Frigatebird	2	Calaveras L.	September 12
Magnificent Frigatebird	2	Mitchell L., <i>Bexar</i>	September 12
Magnificent Frigatebird	2	College Station, <i>Brazos</i>	September 12
Magnificent Frigatebird	1	Hornsby Bend, <i>Travis</i>	September 13
Magnificent Frigatebird	3	Granger L., <i>Williamson</i>	September 13
Magnificent Frigatebird	1	Missouri City, <i>Ft. Bend</i>	?
Red Phalarope	1	Village Creek WWTP, <i>Dallas</i>	September 10–15
Pomarine Jaeger*	1?	Granger L.	September 12
Laughing Gull	++	Most medium–large reservoirs	September 11+
Sabine's Gull	1	<i>El Paso</i>	September 11
Sabine's Gull	5	Lewisville L.	September 11–21
Sabine's Gull	3	Cooper L., <i>Delta</i>	September 11–18
Sabine's Gull	1	Calaveras L.	September 13
Sabine's Gull	1	Braunig L., <i>Bexar</i>	September 13
Sabine's Gull	1	Choke Canyon Res.	September 13–18
Sabine's Gull	2	L. Tawakoni, <i>Van Zandt</i>	September 12
Gull-billed Tern	5	Granger L.	September 11–13
Gull-billed Tern	2	Eagle L., <i>Colorado</i>	?
Caspian Tern	4	Hornsby Bend	September 12
Caspian Tern	3	Granger L.	September 12–13
Caspian Tern	4	L. Alcoa, <i>Milam</i>	September 12
Caspian Tern	45	Sam Rayburn Res. (3 cos.)	September 13+
Royal Tern	3	L. Alcoa	September 12
Sandwich Tern*	1?	L. Alcoa	September 12
Least Tern	++	Calaveras L.	September 12
Least Tern	14	L. Alcoa	September 12
Least Tern	4	Granger L.	September 13
Bridled Tern	2	Calaveras L.	September 12
Sooty Tern	4	Calaveras L.	September 12
Sooty Tern	2	Braunig L.	September 12
Sooty Tern†	2	Sam Rayburn Res.	September 12–13
Sooty Tern	1	Stillhouse Hollow Res., <i>Bell</i>	September 13
Sooty Tern	1	Armand Bayou, <i>Harris</i>	?
Sooty Tern	5	L. Livingston	September ??–19
Sooty Tern	1	Mustang I., <i>Nueces</i>	September 17
Black Tern	+++	Inland reservoirs and coast	September 11+
Black Skimmer	3	Attwater, <i>Colorado</i>	?

*ID probable

†1st for Pineywoods

++A few to many but numbers unknown

+++ Very large numbers

Paso area up to 70 *Aechmophorus* grebes were observed per day, with Westerns slightly outnumbering Clark's (*vide* BZ). A W. Grebe at L. O'The Pines, *Marion*, Nov. 14 (CCo), provided one of very few e. Texas records in the past 5 years. Eleven and 20 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were seen on the Aug. and Sep. pelagic trips off Port O'Connor, respectively. One Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen on the Sep. 5 trip (m. ob.). A well-documented **Red-billed Tropicbird** was noted off Port O'Connor Sep. 5 (†PH, BFr, m. ob.), providing about the 5th Texas record. Another tropicbird seen Aug. 8 was not positively identified to species.

Seldom reported from the Panhandle, an Am. Bittern was in *Carson* Nov. 2 (MK, MS). A count of 675+ Great Egrets at L. Sam Rayburn Sep. 7 (DW, MW) was an incredible inland total. Late for the South Plains, a Snowy Egret was at White River L., *Crosby*, Nov. 15 (MCA, AF). A Tricolored Heron at Midland Sep. 10–15 (VW) was unexpected, as was a Reddish Egret at Granger L., *Williamson*, Sep. 12 (BFr). Rare for the Trans-Pecos, a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was in El Paso Aug. 11–12 (BZ). Higher than normal numbers of Roseate Spoonbills were noted in c. Texas in early Sep. (m. ob.); some arrived before *Frances* hit, but others may

have been blown inland by that storm. Turkey Vultures withdraw from n. Texas during the fall, so a lone bird in *Gray* Nov. 26 (PT) was quite late.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A significant count of 2300 Ross's Geese was made in *Colorado* Nov. 15 (BFr). In contrast to previous years, Muscovy Ducks were rarely reported this season in their expected L.R.G.V. haunts. A pair of Redheads with small young were at Ft. Bliss Aug. 17 (BZ). A good count for c. Texas was 553 Ring-necked Ducks in *Lee* Nov. 18 (HB). Inland Surf Scoter reports included one at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, Oct. 24 (JPa, DWe), one at L. Balmorhea Nov. 21–30 (TJ, m. ob.), and one in *Cooke* Nov. 26 (BFr). Another Surf Scoter at Laguna Atascosa Nov. 15 (ML) was notable. Seven Red-breasted Mergansers were at McNary Nov. 13 (BZ), an area of the state where they are seldom reported.

Ospreys were far more numerous in the western half of the state than normal (*vide* KS, BZ). A soaring group of eight Hook-billed Kites was an unusual sighting over Bentsen Nov. 15 (*vide* TB). An amazing report was received of a possible Hook-billed Kite at San Antonio's Mitchell L. Sep. 10 (†BD); the species has never been documented away from the immediate Rio Grande area of the L.R.G.V. Swallow-tailed Kite numbers were particularly impressive this fall (Table 2); single kites in *Freestone* Aug. 29–30 (*vide* SCI), the *Bexar/Comal* line Aug. 30 (SM), and in *Shelby* Aug. 31 (PHa) were well away from their regular migration corridor. A late Mississippi Kite was found injured in Lubbock Nov. 1 (*vide* AF). Harris's Hawks are increasing in the El Paso area quite rapidly; they have moved into at least 4 previously unoccupied areas (*vide* BZ). Superlatives are becoming a ritual at the Texas hawkwatches. Watchers at Hazel Bazemore once again set a new North American standard for Broad-winged Hawk in a single day with a staggering count of 306,766 birds Sep. 26 (JoS, m. ob.). The season's final total of all raptors at that location just barely missed the million mark. A Zone-tailed Hawk, always a rarity in s. Texas, was in *Kenedy* Oct. 18 (TU). Five Crested Caracaras in *Galveston* Sep. 26 (JSt) were a nice find. The hacked Aplomado Falcons from Matagorda I. and Laguna Atascosa are beginning to wander farther afield, as evidenced by one on N. Padre I. Nov. 27+ (JiH, A & MC). Nine Peregrine Falcon sightings involved at least seven birds in the El Paso area Aug. 14–Sep. 11 (BZ), a higher count than normal.

Table 2. Fall 1998 Texas Hawkwatch Results

	Smith Point	Hazel Bazemore
Black Vulture	114	138
Turkey Vulture	612	5,011
Osprey	68	179
Swallow-tailed Kite*	34*	6
White-tailed Kite	29	6
Mississippi Kite	2,364	3,584
Bald Eagle	—	2
Northern Harrier	263	180
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3,337	1,207
Cooper's Hawk	1,136	260
Harris's Hawk	—	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	36	38
Broad-winged Hawk	16,167	970,025
Swainson's Hawk	58	6,789
White-tailed Hawk	—	5
Red-tailed Hawk	43	121
Crested Caracara	6	1
American Kestrel	1,337	438
Merlin	28	29
Peregrine Falcon	93	162
Prairie Falcon	—	6
Unid. Raptors	294	4,756
Season's Total	26,019	992,948

*25 additional Swallow-tailed Kites were seen at Smith Point prior to watch period.

PRAIRIE-CHICKENS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Yellow Rail was seen Oct. 3 & 18 at Lubbock (AF), only the 2nd record for the South Plains. Also very rare in n.w. Texas, a Black Rail was found dead in *Potter* Sep. 19 (ph., SP), where it probably was killed in migration by striking an overhead power line. A ride on a combine in a rice field in *Calhoun* Oct. 14 produced a gratifying count of 622 Soras (PH). Four ad. and one juv. Whooping Cranes spent the night at Little River, *Bell*, Nov. 16 (CCo& JJ); this is on the regular migration corridor but stopover migrants are always a treat.

An alternate-plumaged Black-bellied Plover Aug. 17 at L. Balmorhea was early for the Trans-Pecos (KB); another 12 in Abilene, *Taylor*, during the fall was an above-normal showing (LB). Three more Black-bellieds on Sam Rayburn Res., *Nacogdoches*, Sep. 19 (DF) were a good find for E. Texas. A count of 116 Snowy Plovers at Port Aransas Oct. 10 (including an albino) was a notable number (TA). Eight Snowy Plovers at L. Tawakoni, *Rains*, Aug. 6 (K & MWh) far surpassed previous counts at that site. A Snowy Plover at McNary Res. Oct. 28 (BZ) was very late. Single Piping Plovers were interesting finds at L. Balmorhea Aug. 20 (KB) and at L. Lewisville, *Denton*, Sep. 3 (*vide* RR). Amos counted 323 Piping Plovers Sep. 14 in the Port Aransas area, a notable one-day count. The Mountain Plovers that have regularly wintered in



Sabine's Gull, one of 15-20 recorded this fall in Texas, on Lake Lewisville September 13. Photograph/R. Stone

perhaps a Brown Pelican at Cedar Creek Reservoir, *Kaufman*, would qualify). On Aug. 23, Junie Sorola of Del Rio reported on *TexBirds* of the modestly interesting results of his birding trip at L. Amistad the previous afternoon just before the remnants of *Charley* stalled over his town for 18 hours, causing tragic devastating floods.

Tropical Storm Frances formed out of a large area of disturbed weather in the w. Gulf of Mexico Sep. 9, about 300 miles e. of Brownsville. After shifting around ominously for a few days, the storm finally plowed ashore at Port O'Connor on the morning of Sep. 11. Much of s.e. Texas was lashed by very heavy rains and wind. The center of the depression stalled over the *Refugio/Victoria* area, but the storm did not behave as had been predicted: curiously, heavy rains did not materialize over the center of the storm, nor in the Texas Hill Country, where they were bracing for flooding. The last heavy rainbands were whipping onto the Upper Texas Coast (and Louisiana) on Sep. 12. In hard hit s.e. Texas, both from heavy rains and high storm tides, birders had difficulty getting out to assess the avian effects: notices on *TexBirds* actually warned birders away because of the numerous road closures. Nonetheless, a storm wreck of epic proportion was apparent. Home-bound coastal birders reported massive numbers of grounded passerines. Elsewhere, birders streamed to local reservoirs and compiled one of the most impressive tallies of storm-blown strays in many years. Most conspicuous among these were Magnificent Frigatebirds and Sooty Terns thrown all over c. and e. Texas and an unprecedented stoppage of southbound Sabine's Gulls. These bodies of water were also speckled with uncommon species, either southbound migrants like Red Phalarope and Pomarine Jaeger or coastal species blown inland. Laughing Gull, Caspian Tern, and Least Tern were reported in many inland areas. The accompanying table collects the most conspicuous waterbird records away from the coast. Undoubtedly a great many interesting passerine migrant records (both their occurrence and their discovery) in mid-late Sep. are attributable to *Frances*, perhaps . . . just perhaps . . . as far west as El Paso. One tidbit of geographic interest: a storm-killed Sooty Tern recovered after *Frances* by Brian Gibbons was banded in 1974 in Florida—a 24-year-old Sooty!

the Granger L. area (*Williamson*) showed up on Oct. 11 (BFR, TFen), when 100 arrived. A single late Black-necked Stilt was at McNary Res. Nov. 3 (BZ) and a single Am. Avocet at S.S.W.T.P., *Dallas*, Nov. 26 (MGs, MWh). A Long-billed Curlew provided a new county record for *Delta* at Cooper L. Aug. 27-28 (MWh). Another Long-billed Curlew was at Hagerman on Sep. 1 (KH). Up to three Marbled Godwits at Sam Rayburn Res., *Nacogdoches*, Sep. 7-12 (DW, MW, m. ob.) provided the first

SA Tropical Storm *Charley* "sloshed" ashore at Port Aransas early on Aug. 22, bringing heavy rains to the Upper and Central Texas Coast, but winds were not serious. Over 145 frigatebirds were over Galveston Bay on the day of landfall and many observers as far inland as San Antonio mentioned a pile-up of southbound Black Terns. There were "astounding" shorebird numbers in the *Calhoun* area with tremendous flocks of Buff-breasted and Upland Sandpipers. Just hours after landfall, things along the coast seemed to be getting back to normal (BFR, TxB). The storm was significant ornithologically for what it didn't produce: there was no major passerine fallout from the storm, and there were essentially no inland pelagic strays (per-

haps a Brown Pelican at Cedar Creek Reservoir, *Kaufman*, would qualify). On Aug. 23, Junie Sorola of Del Rio reported on *TexBirds* of the modestly interesting results of his birding trip at L. Amistad the previous afternoon just before the remnants of *Charley* stalled over his town for 18 hours, causing tragic devastating floods.

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area record. A Red Knot was at L. Balmorhea Aug. 12 (KB), where the species is casual. Other interesting inland Red Knots included singles at Hornsby Bend, *Travis*, Aug. 11 (RF), at Village Creek from late Aug. to Sep. 11 (m. ob.), and at Hagerman Sep. 1 (KaH). Eight Sanderlings were found at Sam Rayburn Res., *San Augustine*, on Sep. 10 (DF) providing an unusual record for the area. Unusual in fall were six White-rumped Sandpipers at Lubbock Sep. 26 (m. ob.). Noteworthy sightings of Buff-breasted

Sandpipers included 158 near Granger L. and 73 (TFen) at S.S.W.T.P. on Sep. 6 (MGa). A well-documented Ruff was at Village Creek Aug. 29–Sep. 4 (EW et. al.). An early Com. Snipe was at Hornsby Bend Aug. 30 (RF). Am. Woodcocks provided early records in Travis Aug. 16 & 20 (*fide* AD) and Collin Aug. 29 (BGI). Single Red Phalaropes were at Kirby L., Taylor, Oct. 5 (†LB, LP) and Village Creek Sep. 10–15 (†MR, et al.).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

A Pomarine Jaeger at Cooper L. Sep. 24–26 (MWh) and a Parasitic Jaeger at Hagerman Oct. 20 (KH, WM) provided rare n.c. Texas records. A Black-headed Gull returned to Cooper L. Nov. 18+ (†MWh) for the 3rd or 4th consecutive winter. A 2nd-winter California Gull was documented at Village Creek Nov. 21 (†MR). A first-winter Thayer's Gull was at Ft. Hancock Nov. 13 (†BZ), providing the 2nd *Hudspeth* record. Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were found at Quintana, Brazoria, Nov. 7 (†JL), at San Jose I., Aransas, Nov. 27 (TA, * to T.C.W.C.), and Calaveras L., Bexar, Nov. 26 (†WS, MR, J & BRi). The previous high count from a single fall migration was five individuals. The unprecedented numbers of Sabine's Gulls, with a total of at least 15 documented individuals, were predominantly related to Frances (Table 1)—but not entirely. After Zimmer's Ft. Bliss record, another Sabine's was found at Tornillo Res. Sept. 18–20 (BZ, ph. JPa), and a single Sabine's at L. Tawakoni Oct. 3 (MWh) may or may not have been a holdover from Frances.

Up to 45 Caspian Terns were blown to Sam Rayburn Res. by Frances on Sep. 13, and many individuals lingered until Oct. 10 (DF, DW). Two Least Terns at Caprock Canyon Aug. 29 provided a first *Briscoe* record (TFer).

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

A Red-billed Pigeon was found incubating eggs at Falcon Dam on the late date of Aug. 29 (OC). A suburban Lubbock yard was visited by a Band-tailed Pigeon Nov. 26–30 (DSte), a rare vagrant in the area. Eurasian Collared-Doves were found in Port O'Connor (Oct. 27, first rec.; PH), a colony of 15 at Tivoli, *Refugio*, in late Oct. (EWa), and a single bird at Santa Ana Nov. 18 (ph., BB). We may not have previously reported breeding colonies in Dallas and Tarrant that observers mentioned this season. A Com. Ground-Dove at Ft. Davis Oct. 10+ was the first record there since the early 1980s (KB). Midland had a rare Black-billed Cuckoo

Oct. 3 (DK), and late Yellow-billed were at Laguna Atascosa Nov. 14 (BMc) and at Brazoria Nov. 28 (RRo). A Groove-billed Ani at Granger L. Aug. 15 (ph. CS) provided a first documented *Williamson* record; a flock of 30 anis at Hazel Bazemore the same day was an unexpected concentration (*fide* PBe). A Flammulated Owl, virtually undetected in migration, was in a residential yard in Midland Oct. 24–28 (ph. GGr). An interesting record of Com. Poorwill was a recently killed bird in Palo Duro Nov. 23 (TLJ). A Chuck-will's-widow in Midland Aug. 29 (RMS) provided a 2nd area record.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Broad-billed Hummingbird made a one-day visit to Zimmer's El Paso yard Sep. 9, for about the 27th Texas record. The Buff-bellied Hummingbird reported in *Washington* in the summer lingered until Oct. 11; two birds were seen at this site Aug. 26 (MEf). Other notable Buff-bellied records included individuals in Gonzales Aug. 13 (DHen) and another at High I. Nov. 7. By late Sep. there was a notable influx of Anna's Hummingbirds into the Trans-Pecos (KB). Later, the movement extended all the way to the coast and E. Texas as evidenced by single birds in Corpus Christi Nov. 2 (GSw), in Calhoun Nov. 30 (PH), and most notably one in *Nacogdoches* Nov. 15 (CEI). There appeared to be higher than normal numbers of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds eastward into c. Texas, the farthest east being a single bird in Rusk Nov. 12+ (PHa). Rufous Hummingbirds can be expected to winter in various numbers in the s. half of the state but are unexpected in the Panhandle area in Nov., where one was in Amarillo Nov. 8–26 (EK, LKJ) and another in Lubbock Oct. 28–Nov. 14 (RE). An apparent imm. Allen's Hummingbird was captured and measured at Corpus Christi Aug. 11–23 (†BO et al.), while an ad. bird in El Paso Aug. 9–10 looked like an Allen's but was not captured for critical measurements (BZ). Interesting Ringed Kingfisher reports included individuals at Mitchell L. Oct. 24 (BD), Brazos Bend Oct. 31–Nov. 5 (J & WRi), Calaveras L. Nov. 11 (RSi), and up to four birds in the Austin area during Nov. (AD, BRe, m. ob.). A Lewis's Woodpecker in Canyon Aug. 26 (†PT) was on a very odd date. Downy Woodpeckers on N. Padre I. and in the Davis Mts. suggested a slight southward and westward movement that would be confirmed during the winter. A Hairy Woodpecker at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson*, Oct. 24 (JWh) provided a

very rare record for the coast. An amazing count of 120 N. Flickers moved with a Oct 7 frontal passage in *Nacogdoches* in just over an hour (DF, RHe). Two Pileated Woodpeckers in *Montague* Nov. 16 (*fide* DMc) were apparently a new county record.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

A very late Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed in Baird, *Callahan*, Oct. 29 (*fide* LB). An early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was in Bastrop Aug. 1 (BFR). A W. Wood-Pewee in *El Paso* Oct. 28 (BZ) was late. Late and somewhat unexpected was a Hammond's Flycatcher at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village Nov. 26 (ML). A Gray Flycatcher returned to Karnes Nov. 1 for its 2nd winter there (DMu, ph. WS, J & BRi). Unusually far east, a Say's Phoebe was found in *Burleson* Oct 21 (SD). Wandering Brown-crested Flycatchers were noted on N. Padre I., *Nueces*, Aug. 9 (A & MC), and in *Brazoria* Nov 15 (RWe). The Tropical Kingbirds at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground were last seen Sep. 13, when at least one juvenile was in the company of adults (*fide* MF). Up to six vocalizing Couch's Kingbirds were in *Galveston* during Nov. (JSt, DS), while four others were in *Ft. Bend* Nov. 15 (J & WRi). An outstanding discovery was a calling **Thick-billed Kingbird** in Palo Duro Canyon Oct. 30 († ph., EK, RSc et al.); this is the first record in Texas away from the Big Bend country. The bird was not relocated. A rather late W. Kingbird was at Choke Canyon Nov. 25 (MR, WS). A migrant push of 1000 E. Kingbirds was seen moving past Smith Point, *Chambers*, Aug. 30 (CR). Rather late for e. Texas was a single E Kingbird in *Nacogdoches* Oct. 7 (DW).

VIREOS THROUGH THRASHERS

A singing Gray Vireo at Davis Mountains S.P. Oct. 5 (KB) provided a rare record for that area. We are still sorting out the distribution of the Solitary Vireo complex. At present, we expect Cassin's and Plumbeous only in w. Texas; reports elsewhere in this state deserve very careful examination. Reports of three Cassin's on the U.T.C., including one bird which was photographed, all appear to be inconclusive (not eliminating dull Blue-headed Vireo). Three Plumbeous Vireos were seen in El Paso Nov 27 (BZ) where the species is a very rare winter resident. Unexpected in Lubbock were two Philadelphia Vireos Sep. 6 (KD, MC, AF). Freeman kicked up a remarkable nine Warbling Vireos in *Bastrop* Aug. 8. A late Red-eyed Vireo was at Quintana, *Brazoria*,

Nov. 22 (KH). The Yellow-green Vireo found near Harlingen in the summer was apparently last seen Sep. 19 (†OC, SB, GL). Just outside their resident range, a W. Scrub-Jay in Waco Aug. 1 (*vide* EGW) provided a first *McClenman* record. While some might question the origin of the bird, a Com. Raven was discovered in Galveston Nov. 6 (JSt); the bird was seen and photographed by m. ob. through the season, a first U.T.C. record. Corpus Christi hosted perhaps the largest Purple Martin roost ever reported in Texas; it had built up to 75,000 birds by Aug. 20 (PBe et al.). A nice concentration of 6000 Tree Swallows was found in *Calhoun* Nov. 1 (PH). Two Aug. reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches in *Bastrop* might have indicated an invasion year (BFR, ML), but very few others were reported during the season. A White-breasted Nuthatch in c. Austin Oct. 7 (*vide* AD) was a curiosity. A Veery in *Lynn* Oct. 17 (MCA, AF) provided a rare South Plains record. Sage Thrashers showed good movements this fall in many areas; they were very common in desert habitats of Big Bend by late Oct. (*vide* KB, MF, m. ob.). A Sprague's Pipit in *Lynn* Oct. 17 (MCA, AC) was unexpected, but Freeman hit the jackpot when he found 128 Sprague's in a field in *Bastrop* Oct. 22.

WARBLERS

Here we offer a chronologic tale of the mish-mash of early arrivals, fallouts, and now-expected set of late lingerers. Table 3 collects other records of interest. The combination of drought-related early departures coupled with slow-moving fronts in early Aug. might account for the earliest ever Yellow Warbler in Amarillo Aug. 1 (EK), a Louisiana Waterthrush in *Schleicher* Aug. 2 (banded by RD, DT), a Tennessee Warbler at Cooper L. Aug. 7 (MWh), and a Canada Warbler in Midland Aug. 11, but what on earth prompted a Yellow-rumped Warbler to show up Aug. 16 in n.c. Texas (at Hagerman; *vide* RR) or a male Prothonotary to settle into Ft. Bliss Aug. 13-18 (joined by a female on Aug. 17; BZ, JPa)? These same weather effects probably caused a sprinkling of Prairie Warblers in such areas as Austin, L. Tawakoni, and Hagerman, where the species is rare in fall. Also in Aug., Lucy's Warblers were found a bit out of range in El Paso (Aug. 11, BZ) and in Big Bend Ranch (Aug. 23, MAd). *Charley* created a fallout of 15 warbler species in the High I. region Aug. 24 (DVer) but relatively little elsewhere. *Frances* clearly dropped massive numbers of warblers over much of

Table 3. Interesting Fall Warbler Records in Texas

Species	Date	Location	OBS	Notes
Virginia's Warbler	October 2	Lubbock	PK	
Virginia's Warbler	September 26	Midland	DK, SS	First since 1988
Northern Parula	August 23	Presidio	??	Early, rare
Northern Parula	September 20	Amarillo	RSc	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	September 11	Abilene	<i>vide</i> LB	<i>Frances</i>
Magnolia Warbler	August 7	Palo Duro	KS	Early
Magnolia Warbler	September 13	Tarrant	<i>vide</i> RR	<i>Frances</i>
Magnolia Warbler	October 8	Nacogdoches	DW	
Magnolia Warbler	October 21	Brazos	BeF	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	August 22	L. Marvin	TFo, m. ob.	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	September 24	Big Bend	FCa	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	October 6	Canyon	MS	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	October 17	Caprock Cyn	TFer	
Black-throated Green Warbler (2)	September 12	Abilene	JyP, LB	<i>Frances</i>
Townsend's Warbler	September 2	Galveston	JSt	
Townsend's Warbler	September 12	Calhoun	PH	<i>Frances</i>
Blackburnian Warbler	September 11	Angelina	LD	<i>Frances</i>
Blackburnian Warbler	September 12 & 14	Washington	DVo	<i>Frances</i>
Blackburnian Warbler (2)	September 13	San Antonio	KBa	<i>Frances</i>
Bay-breasted Warbler	September 28	Wise	<i>vide</i> GK	
Bay-breasted Warbler	September 30	Tarrant	<i>vide</i> RR	
Bay-breasted Warbler	October 9	Austin	RFe	
Black-and-white Warbler	September 11	Ft. Bliss	BZ	
Black-and-white Warbler	October 13	Ft. Bliss	BZ	
American Redstart	September 8-12	El Paso	BZ	
American Redstart	October 9	Nacogdoches	DW	
Ovenbird	September 11	Nacogdoches	DW	<i>Frances</i>
Ovenbird	September 28	Tarrant	<i>vide</i> RR	
Kentucky Warbler	September 10	San Antonio	JM	<i>Frances</i>
Canada Warbler	September 10	Washington	DVo	<i>Frances</i>
Canada Warbler	September 14	Ft. Davis	KM et al.	Banded; <i>Frances</i> ?

Note: *Frances* indicates records probably related to that Tropical Storm.

the e. and c. parts of the state, but observers on parts of the coast had difficulty getting out to document the effect. It is tempting to posit some type of weather-related effect for the spectacular fallout Zimmer found in El Paso on Sep. 11, even though *Frances* had no direct influence out there. Zimmer described that day as the "event of the season," with an incredible list of 14 spp. of warblers (11 in one tree at once). Zimmer's best find that day was perhaps a Grace's Warbler, only the 8th county record. By mid- to late Sep., Black-throated Grays were being reported more frequently than normal in the w. half of Texas, and an eastward drift of w. species such as Virginia's and Townsend's warblers was evident. Eastern species showing up to the west included Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, and Canada warblers. A real Oct. surprise was a possible Golden-cheeked Warbler in *Blanco* Oct. 2 (SWie); this is over a month and a half beyond the latest confirmed sighting previously. Among the most conspicuously late warblers were: Black-and-whites in Amarillo Oct. 30 (RJ) and Lubbock Nov. 8 (AF), a Townsend's at Ft. Bliss Nov. 5 (BZ), a Blackburnian at Laguna Atascosa Nov. 13

(ML), and a Black-throated Green at San Bernard Nov. 21 (JO).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Although the species nests only 40 miles away, a Hepatic Tanager in *El Paso* Aug. 13 (BZ) was a local rarity. A Summer Tanager on the edge of Sam Rayburn Res. Nov. 20 (JWin) was quite late for e. Texas. A Scarlet Tanager was a rare find in *Washington* Oct. 21 (DVo); at least four others on the U.T.C from Oct. 12-24 were also notable. Rarely reported in the Panhandle, a Le Conte's Sparrow was at Taylor Lakes W.M.A., *Donley*, Oct. 23 (KS). In general, sparrow movements in w. Texas were sparse (*vide* KB); exceptions were Clay-colored and White-crowned. Zimmer had a one day count of 350 Clay-colored in *El Paso* Sep. 23, a notable concentration. A Fox Sparrow in Midland Nov. 21 (SS) was the first for that area in 5 years. An exceptionally early White-throated Sparrow was at Cooper L., *Delta*, Aug. 7 (MWh); this is 2 months early. A "Gray-headed" Junco in El Paso Sep. 14 (BZ) was also early. A 2nd *Tarrant* record was provided by a Pyrrhuloxia Oct. 12 (GK). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Palo Duro Nov. 13 (EK et al.) was late, while a

Varied Bunting in *El Paso* Aug. 11 (BZ) provided only the 2nd county record. A rather late Dickcissel was in *Mason* Nov. 1 (DFe), while four in *El Paso* Sep. 10–24 provided unusual area records (BZ). Rare in the fall in Texas, single Bobolinks were seen at Granger L. Aug. 15 (CS) and Quintana Oct. 24 (DVer). There were two late solo Orchard Orioles: at Sabine Woods Nov. 8 (KSz) and Austin Nov. 14 (RFe). A Pine Siskin in *Sherman* Aug. 11 (KS) was quite early, as was another near Austin Aug. 28 (PK). Lesser Goldfinches were found nesting in Pharr, *Hidalgo* (JKi). Several reports indicated that small numbers of Am. Goldfinches arrived early in c. Texas and on the U.T.C. (e.g., mid-Aug.).

ADDENDUM

A male Varied Bunting photographed in Midland Apr. 25, 1998, provided a first county record (WW).

CORRIGENDUM

Credit for the Black Noddy photograph from Bolivar Flats (*FN* 52: 408, attributed to Brinkley) should be shared with Marshall J. Iloff.

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

We received the following reports of Texas rarities with insufficient or no documentation: Masked Duck at Brazoria N.W.R. in Nov.; California Gull at Galveston Nov. 3; up to five Sabine's Gulls from various locations; Hermit Warbler in *Galveston* Sep. 19; Connecticut Warbler at High I., Aug. 29; and Scott's Oriole in Galveston Oct. 31.

Cited observers (subregional editors in boldface): Mark Adams (MAd), Jimmie Aiken, Gene Allen, Tony Amos, Keith Arnold, Nina & Eddie Arnold, Keith Bartels (KBa), Patty Beasley (PBe), Bob Behrstock, Steve Bentsen, Nancy Bird, Al Black, Lorie Black, Nick Block, Doug Booher, **David Bradford** (U.T.C.: 18046 Green Hazel, Houston, TX 77084. email: brdfrd@tenet.edu), Hugh Brown, Tim Brush, **Kelly Bryan** (Trans-Pecos: P.O. Box 786, Ft. Davis, TX 79734. email: kellyb@nexus.as.utexas.edu), Winnie Burkett, Rudy Cadra, Marty Campbell (MCa), Oscar Carmoma, Sharon Carter, F. Carter (FCa), Charlie Clark, Scott Clark (SCl), Fred Collins, Don Connell, Arlie & **Mel Cooksey** (South Texas: 15825 Socorro Loop, Corpus Christi, TX 78418. email: cybrbrdr@trip.net), Cameron Cox (CCo), Ross Dawkins, Louis Debetaz, Sandy Dillard, Mike Dillion, Keith Dixon, Bob Doe (BDo), Andrew Donnelly, Mark &

Maryann Eastman, Marcia Effinger (MEF), Jan Elston, Chuck Ely (CEl), Rosemary English, Ted Eubanks, Tim Fennel (TFen), Rob Fergus (RFe), Terry Ferguson (TFer), Dixie Feuerbacher (DFe), Dean Fisher, Mark Flippo, Anthony Floyd, Tom Follis, Tyler Fordham, Bobbye Frazier (BoF), Brush Freeman (BFR), Bert Frenz (BeF), Red & Louise Gambill, Murray Gardler (MGa), Gary Garratt, Brian Gibbons (BGi), Tom Gill, Gene Grimes (GGr), Jim Hailey (JiH), Karl Haller (KaH), Peggy Harding (PHa), Ken Hartman, Tyrrell Harvey, David Haukos, David & Linda Hedges, Ruth Heino (RHe), Chuck & Nancy Henderson, Dick Henderson (DHen), Petra Hockey, Jimmy Jackson, Richard Jalbert, Lucy Kay Jalbert (LKJ), Irene James, Wiley James, Tom Johnson, Corky & Joye Johnson (Co & JJ), Thomas L. Johnson (TLJ), John Jones, Tim Kaspar, Mike Keck, Greg Keiran, Donna & Alvin Kelly, Joseph Kennedy, Keith Kimmerle, Phillip Kite (PKi), Jane Kittleman (JKi), Ed Kutac, Paul Kyle, Jason Leifester, Lee Lemmons, Cathy Liles, Keith Lockhart, Mark Lockwood, Kelsey Lowe, Suzanne McCandless, Kris McIntyre, Debra McKee (DMc), Bill McKinney (BiMc), Brad McKinney (BMc), Wayne Meyer, James Middleton, Charles Mills, Carol Mitchell, Carroll Moore (CMo), Derek Muschalek (DMu), John O'Brien, Dale Ohl, Brent Ortego, Jay Packer (JyP), Laura Packer, Noreen Palazzo, Jim Paton (JPa), Dick Payne, Dwight Peake (DPe), James Phelps, Randy Pinkston, Steve Pomeroy, Ross Rasmussen, Ellen Ratoosh, Carolyn Ray, Jim Ray, Don Reed, Martin Reid, Bill Reiner (BRe), John & Barbara Ribble (J&BRi), Bob Righter, Cecilia Riley, Jan & Will Risser (J & WRi), Roger Rowe (RRo), Rod Rylander, Laura Sare (LSa), David Sarkozi, Adriel Schoenhals, Monty Schoenhals (MS), Georgina Schwartze (GSc), Rosemary Scott (RSc), **Willie Sekula** (Central Texas: 7063 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113-2627. email: wsekula@the-cia.net), Larry Semo (LSe), Chuck Sexton, **Ken Seyffert** (Panhandle: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), **Cliff Shackelford** (CSh) (East Texas: Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744. email: clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us), Mark Shavers (MSh), J.W. Sifford (JWS), Joel Simons (JoS), Richard Sims (RSi), Lu Skillern (LSk), Ron Smith, Sara St. Clair, Blair Sterba-Boatright, Darleen Stevens (DSte), Jim Stevenson (JSt), Cliff Stogner (CSt), Bob Stone, Byron Stone, Rose Marie Stortz, Glenn Swartz (GSw), Ken Sztraky (KSz), Delbert Tarter, Kent Taylor, TexBirds

(TxB; Audubon birding discussion list), Peggy Trosper, Tom Urban, Donald Verser (DVer), David Veselka, Darrell Vollert (DVo), Valerie Walmsley, Eric Walters (EWa), Ro Wauer, Dave Webb (DWe), Ron Weeks (RWe), Carol Wells, Ed Wetzell, Joyce Wheeler, Kristin & **Matt White** (K & MWh) (N.C. Texas: 2518 Monroe, Commerce, TX 75428. email: mwhite@sulphur-springs.isd.tenet.edu), E.G. White-Swift (EGW), Gayle Whitten, John Whittle (JWh), Sue Wiedenfeld (SWie), Watt Wigzell, Jack Windson (JWin), David Wolf, Mimi Wolf, John Wormuth, Barry Zimmer.

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 24.

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