

for that state (LAS). Among the several White-throated Sparrow reports was an unusual peak of six on the Grand Forks CBC Dec. 20. This species wintered for the first time at Ft. Peck, MT (CC). Harris's Sparrows were also more numerous than normal.

Lapland Longspurs wintered in good numbers in w. North Dakota, and a flock of 70 was noted N of Bowdoin N.W.R., MT, Dec. 19 (DP). Snow Buntings were present in good numbers in North Dakota.

Five Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch reports were received from Montana and the Black Hills of South Dakota. Very few Purple Finches were reported. A single male House Finch returned to Ft. Peck Feb. 25 (CC). More widespread than in recent years in South Dakota, Red Crossbills were noted in 11 counties. Also widespread in North Dakota, the species was territorial in many areas by the end of the period, and an occupied nest was found in Mandan Feb. 21 (CDE). Only one White-winged Crossbill report was received.

Common Redpolls were in low numbers, but Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches were widespread. Pine Siskins peaked at 700 in Grand Forks Jan. 20 (EEF), and Am. Goldfinches topped out at 310 on the Garrison Dam, ND, CBC Dec. 19. Evening Grosbeaks were almost non-existent.

CORRIGENDA

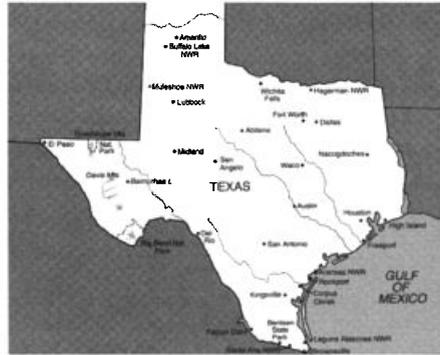
In *Field Notes* 52:215-216, the Pied-billed Grebe in *McLean* Dec. 14 represented the 2nd December record and 2nd latest for North Dakota. The Am. Coot in *Mercer*, ND, Dec. 16 should have read Dec. 6, the 2nd latest for North Dakota. In *Field Notes* 52:348, the Merlin nesting in *Grand Forks* was the first nesting away from the badlands since the 1920s.

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texas region



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Mild, dry, and dull were the operative terms for this ho-hum season. Aside from a few brief cold snaps in the northern half of the state, there was "little real winter weather." A roadside sign in Austin, set amongst the new greenery and early wildflowers on a 75°F day in late January, read "These Hill Country winters sure are brutal." The central mountains of the Trans-Pecos got a good moisture-laden storm in early December, and an ice storm in late January in the northern Panhandle left Amarillo looking like a war zone with downed tree limbs lying about. Very locally, Rockport reported about four inches rain, but other than these notable exceptions a great portion of the state was dry and getting drier through the period.

Punctuated only by a single spectacular gull report, avid listers had few "zingers" to chase. As the mildness of the winter rolled on, most observers went about the countryside dutifully documenting the wide diversity of unexpected over-wintering species. Warblers always seem to hold sway in the lists compiled in years such as this, but it was also a season of hummingbirds, night-hawks, Swainson's Hawks, and Scissor-tails. Locally, there was an interesting changeover of avifaunas to monitor at Lake Balmorhea after a planned fish kill, and prairie bird censuses to initiate in eastern portions of the state. Wintering species such as House Wren and Common Yellowthroat, which a majority of observers at lower latitudes take

for granted, gained mention well to the north.

The timely and widespread dissemination of information on sightings (both the special and the mundane) has now become expected on the Internet as the number of subscribers for National Audubon Society's *TexBirds* discussion list continued to grow along with the willingness of subscribers to post just about everything that passed in front of their binoculars. Perhaps due to the dullness of the season and perhaps also due to the growing mindset of some to consider the quarterly publication of such birding information as increasingly outmoded, we saw the ranks of primary contributors continue to shrink.

We fondly dedicate this column to the memory of our friend and long-time Texas birder Sheriton Burr, who passed away in late March. Sheriton was a true gentleman; gracious and unassuming, knowledgeable and generous. Sheriton was an inveterate voyager on pelagic birding trips and, through his records keeping and encouragement, he played an inspirational role in the recent revolution in our understanding of the off-shore avifauna of Texas.

Abbreviations: L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee/Texas Ornithological Society*); T.P.R.F. (*Texas Photo Record File, Texas A & M University*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*) V.C.D.B. (*Village Creek Drying Beds, Arlington, Tarrant Co.*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Aransas, Bentsen, Big Bend, Brazos Bend, Caprock Canyons, Pedernales Falls, and San Bernard.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Red-throated Loons showed up at a pace of about one per month: single birds were at Cooper L., *Delta/Hopkins*, Dec. 9 (†MWh); Galveston I. Dec. 23 (JSt); L. Tawakoni Jan. 25 (†SML); and at Lake O' The Pines, *Marion*, Feb. 16 (CCo). About 11 Pacific Loons scattered across the state were perhaps the highest seasonal tally ever, more evidence of why the T.B.R.C. took the species off the Texas Review List 2 years ago. A very unseasonal nesting pair of Least Grebes was active at San Antonio's Mitchell

L. Dec. 5 (PB). The October rains which had filled up Buffalo L., *Randall*, continued to provide benefits into the winter: An unprecedented concentration of 40 Horned Grebes were noted there Dec. 4 (KS). A pair of Red-necked Grebes was reported at North Fork Buffalo Creek Res., *Wichita*, Feb. 11 (†TK); details will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C. The near absence of *Aechmophorus* grebes on L. Balmorhea, *Reeves*, this winter was not unexpected; a planned fish kill was carried out last fall to rid the lake of an exotic species which was threatening the genetic stability of a local endangered pupfish (KB). As the lake is restocked with non-invasive fish species, birders will be monitoring the return of the diverse avian fauna to this productive site. Interestingly, nine W. Grebes showed up at 4 Panhandle locations, more than usually expected up there (*vide* KS).

A couple of Brown Pelicans at Amistad Res., *Val Verde*, Dec. 27, were interesting (SWie). The explosion of wintering Double-crested Cormorants in Texas was evidenced by many dozens wintering in the Panhandle (KS). Although Least Bittern winters very rarely along the coast (as witnessed by 2 reports this season at Port Aransas and South Padre I.), a remarkable occurrence was another in Big Bend's Rio Grande Village Dec. 9 (CG) and Feb. 1 (LL). A strange sight was an apparent hybrid *Egretta* at L. Casa Blanca near Laredo Feb. 24; it appeared to be a combination of Snowy Egret and perhaps Tricolored Heron (J&BRi, WS). This odd bird can be viewed at <http://members.tripod.com/~tbr/rogues.htm>. Unexpected for the Panhandle were three Black-crowned Night-Herons at Amarillo, *Potter* (LSa), and a single Yellow-crowned at Lubbock Dec. 28 (BRa). Nine White-faced Ibis wintered at Feather L. near El Paso (JS). A single Turkey Vulture passed over Amarillo Dec. 18 (TLJ), providing only the 3rd winter record for the Panhandle.

WATERFOWL

Exceptionally high numbers of geese wintered in the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos. For example, 150,000 "white geese" were counted in the Panhandle, eclipsing a previous high count of 70,000 (*vide* TPWD). Lake Balmorhea numbers peaked with at least 55 Canadas, eight Snows (Blues), 350 Snows, and an amazing 90 Ross's. Two of the rare blue-morph Ross's were in *Karnes* Feb. 17–18 (MR, WS). Another Ross's (white morph) stayed at L. Tyler, *Smith*, Dec. 24–Feb. 21 (PBa). A Trumpeter Swan discovered at a pond near Kerrville Feb. 24

was of unknown origin (TG). A drake Eur. Wigeon turned up on a *Cameron* pond Jan. 20 (PDH) where it remained through the period (ph. GL, SB). An Eur. × Am. Wigeon was at Loy L., *Grayson*, Jan. 13 (WM) for the 3rd winter. An apparent **American Black Duck** was at V.C.D.B., *Tarrant*, Dec. 9–31 (JSi, SG †m.ob.); there are currently only 7 accepted records of this species in Texas. A Cinnamon Teal, rarely reported in e. Texas, was on the *Smith/Van Zandt* line Dec. 16 (TPo). One of the best finds of the season in the Panhandle was a White-winged Scoter at Palo Duro L., *Hansford*, Jan. 16 (EK, m.ob.), only the 3rd record for the Panhandle. Six Oldsquaws were scattered around the state; the most significant was one at L. Balmorhea Jan. 8 into February (BF, PHo, m.ob.).

It was a banner year for Com. Goldeneyes in the Trans-Pecos; up to 12 were present all winter at L. Balmorhea, three were in Rio Grande Village, Big Bend, Jan. 13 (RW), and ten were on the Rio Grande at Santa Elena Canyon Feb. 10 (DWa). Details and photos of a bird identified as a female Barrow's Goldeneye at V.C.D.B. Dec. 11–12 (†MR et al.) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C. Good concentrations of Com. Mergansers were at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* (750 birds), and at Ft. Hancock Res. (300 birds) Feb. 4 (PBa). Noteworthy were single female Com. Mergansers in the e. half of Texas; one was in *Dallas* Dec. 26 (RR), one was in n. *Harris* Jan. 2–6 (RA), one was at L. O'The Pines Jan. 12 (CCo), and one was at L. Tawakoni Jan. 25–Feb. 13 (SML, m.ob.).

RAPTORS

While Hook-billed Kites have been resident in the L.R.G.V. since the mid-1960s, a dark-morph bird had never been documented until this season. Pat Culbertson noted a dark-morph Hook-billed Kite at Bentsen in early December and her husband, Jim, was able to get good photos of the bird (ph. to T.P.R.F.). The bird remained through the season (m.ob.) and was seen regularly soaring with other Hook-billeds. A White-tailed Kite in Miles, *Runnels*, Jan. 3 (TR) provided one of very few records for the Concho Valley. A Bald Eagle at L. Balmorhea all winter (m.ob.) and two near Ft. Davis through the season (PE) provided unexpected Trans-Pecos records.

Swainson's Hawks are very rare in Texas during the winter, but several have been photographed in recent winters; singles were photographed Feb. 6 at Corpus Christi (WS, J&BRi) and Feb. 14 in *Bee* (JWe) while three others were reported during the sea-

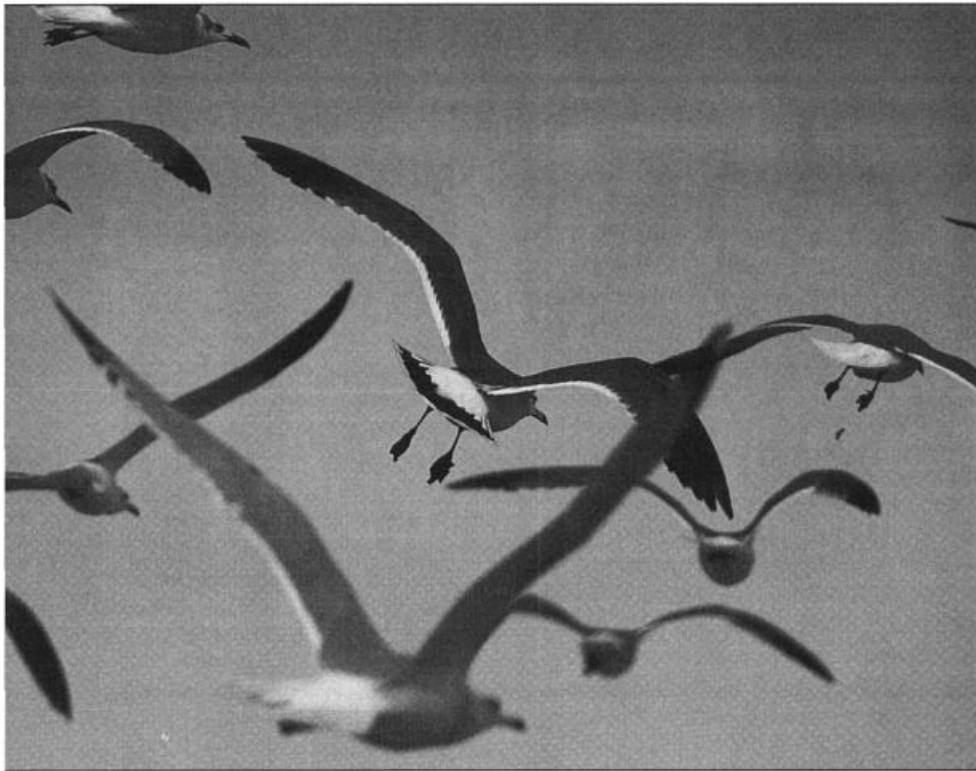
son in *Brazoria* (RWe, JSt, m.ob.). A few Zone-tailed Hawks were seen, including two in the L.R.G.V. and one in *Jim Hogg* (m.ob.). Very unusual for the Trans-Pecos, a dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk wintered along Cibolo Cr., *Presidio*, where it was carefully studied (AA, D&LH, m.ob.).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Quite unexpected for the area, a Black Rail was seen in Lubbock Dec. 19–20 (PKi, MCA, AFL). A nice find was four King Rails at the Alazan W.M.A., *Nacogdoches*, Feb 16 (DW). The birds vocalized in pairs in response to a tape and likely constitute the first winter record for the sub-region. Seven Virginia Rails were at the same spot Dec. 19 (D&MW) while six were found there Feb 16; both the above species stayed through the season. Wolf thinks that these birds held winter territories in the marshes here and wonders if local nesting by King Rails might occur here during late winter, something to watch for. Rare in winter, single Purple Gallinules were noted in *Hidalgo* Feb. 22 (BFR) and in *Bexar* Dec. 20 (*vide* ER). A record flock of 182 Whooping Cranes (164 adults and 18 young) wintered in and around Aransas. An additional adult was seen Jan. 4–21 near Sabinal w. of San Antonio (SSo). Either that stray adult or another was near Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend*, Jan. 24–Feb. 14 (LM, m.ob.). A very late Semipalmated Plover was in Austin Dec. 16 (BFR). The Mt. Plovers mentioned in the fall report near Granger L. were seen during the winter period, but a count of 21 was the highest number noted (TFen). Eight Mt Plovers were seen near New Braunfels Dec 12 (KBa). An Am. Avocet was in *Wichita* at North Fork Buffalo Creek Res. Jan. 9–10 (TK), providing a very rare winter record there. A Willet in Midland Feb. 27 (D&AK) was out-of-place. Very unexpected inland was a Pectoral Sandpiper at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone*, Feb. 21 (TPo). Unexpected far inland in winter was a Dunlin in Midland Jan. 5–13 (JMe) and two in Lubbock Jan. 12 (AFL). Ten Long-billed Dowitchers were in *Randall* Dec. 19 (GF, KS et al.), only the 3rd winter record for the Panhandle.

GULLS

A scattering of Franklin's Gulls lingered into late December along the U.T.C., with the latest being one in *Fort Bend* Dec. 26 (PDH). The Black-headed Gull from the fall at Cooper L. remained until Feb. 24 (MWh). The banded Black-headed Gull from V.C.D.B., first reported in March



This Black-tailed Gull (flying away and center), a first for Texas, stayed briefly at the Brownsville landfill, where it was photographed February 12, 1999. See Pictorial Highlights for another view of the bird. Photographer/Greg W. Lasley

1998, returned Feb. 2 and remained through the season (MR et al.).

The most exciting find of the season was an ad. **Black-tailed Gull** discovered Feb. 11 at the Brownsville landfill (ph. †WD, BP, DDi, S&JSk). There have been several recent records on the east coast, and several Texas observers had speculated that this species could show up here. The discoverers were visiting from New York and were familiar with the species. They were able to contact local observers so many were able to see this first Texas record through Feb. 13. Stay tuned for the spring report for more on this bird.

Among the literally thousands of gulls this winter at V.C.D.B., an imm. Mew Gull was seen sporadically Dec. 3 through Feb. 3 (†MR, JWS, m.ob.) and an adult was also there Feb. 28 (†BG, MR, DHu). There were six California Gulls reported at scattered locations across the state; documentation was received on only three of these. An apparent Thayer's Gull was at V.C.D.B. Feb. 28 (†MR). Details on a 2nd winter Iceland Gull from Brownsville Jan. 8 will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C.; to date there is only one accepted record for Texas.

As usual, there were about a half-dozen Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported along

the coast. A well-described Lesser Black-backed Gull at L. Lewisville, *Denton*, Jan. 13–14 (ph., MGA) provided a first county record and only the 2nd for n.c. Texas. A Glaucous Gull was at Galveston Jan. 19–Feb. 12 (DPe et al.) while two were reported at Brownsville Feb. 25 (DF). Two imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were discovered at San Antonio's Calaveras L. Jan. 27 (MSi, RSi, m.ob.); one remained until at least Feb. 12 (WS et al.).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue their march across Texas; new county records came from *Aransas, Bastrop, Bell, Childress, Hunt, and Lubbock*. Another expanding dove, White-winged, was found in unprecedented numbers in *Brazos* with 157 counted Dec. 14 (*fide* KA). A new county record was provided by a White-winged in *Fannin* Jan. 31 (WM). Details on a Ruddy Ground-Dove at Laguna Atascosa Jan. 31 (DNP) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C. An outstanding find was a White-tipped Dove at Boquillas Canyon, Big Bend, Jan. 17 (MFI).

There was evidence of an influx of Short-eared Owls into central and s. Texas where concentrations of birds at scattered locations from *Bell* southward drew much

attention. A mild winter allowed several Com. Nighthawks to spend the entire season on the w. side of Houston (KH). In keeping with the warm winter, Com. Nighthawks appeared in McAllen Dec. 28 (BMc) and in *Refugio* Feb. 16 (PHo). Amazingly, a Chuck-will's-widow was found at Freeport Dec. 20 (RWe). It was difficult to gauge the significance of overwintering hummingbird populations because they draw such frequent mention by observers. For example, there were reports of 16 Rufous Hummingbirds in c. Texas; was this high or low? A Broad-billed Hummingbird was at L. Jackson, *Brazoria*, Jan. 27 through the period (†ph. T&SC). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird in Comal Dec. 30 (RD) was away from its normal wintering range. An Anna's Hummingbird in *Nacogdoches* from the fall remained until Jan. 16 (CEI). Of several Broad-tailed Hummingbirds reported, the most interesting was a bird that overwintered in Kilgore, *Rusk* (ph. PHa). A couple of Broad-taileds wintered in Austin, and singles were reported in San Antonio and Comfort. A wintering imm. male *Selasphorus* in Houston molted into adult plumage showing characteristics of an Allen's Hummingbird (J&WRi).

Reports of Ringed Kingfishers away from their s. Texas haunts included a bird in *Bastrop* Dec. 25–26 (LGo) and a bird seen through December and January in San Marcos (DHe). It should be noted that Ringed Kingfishers appear to be inching their way up the Rio Grande and into the Edward's Plateau; they have also been noted on the Devil's and Pecos Rivers in *Val Verde* (*fide* ML). Green Kingfishers are now being regularly reported from Rio Grande Village in Big Bend. There was a minor incursion of Red-headed Woodpeckers into parts of c and s. Texas. Notable Red-headed records included one at Ft. Clark Springs, *Kinney*, in January (*fide* WS) and one in Rancho Viejo, *Cameron*, Feb. 17 through the period (BBa, ph. SB, BMC, m.ob.). A Red-bellied Woodpecker which arrived in Midland in November remained the winter (*fide* FW). A Red-naped Sapsucker was at Aransas Dec. 29, well away from its expected winter range (ph. ME). Amazingly, an apparent Red-naped × Red-breasted Sapsucker was mist-netted in Guadalupe Delta W.M.A., *Calhoun*, Jan. 23 (ph. BO), the 3rd record of this hybrid combination from Texas. Williamson's Sapsuckers were in higher than normal numbers in the Davis Mts. this winter; six birds Dec. 30 (CR) represented the high count. A Downy Woodpecker at Ft. Clark Springs Jan. 1 was interesting (JA)

Three Pileated Woodpeckers in *Montague* in early February (JiH) were w. of their expected range.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

Although more regular along the coast in winter, two Least Flycatchers in *Frio* Jan. 16 (BLy) were notable. A Black Phoebe was at Wolf Cr. Park, *Ochiltree*, Dec. 7 (ph. GL, SB), providing the first winter record for the Panhandle while an E. Phoebe at Caprock Canyons S.P., *Briscoe*, Jan. 1 (KS) provided another rare record. Two Vermilion Flycatchers were unexpected in *Brazos* Feb. 27 (MVD). An Ash-throated Flycatcher in *Jefferson* Jan. 24 (KSz) was as far up the coast as you can go and still stay in Texas while a Brown-crested Flycatcher in *Bastrop* returned for its 4th winter (BFr). A Brown-crested Flycatcher at San Bernard Dec. 6–Jan. 22 (RWe et al.) was near the locations where two birds wintered last year. Also quite unexpected was a lone Great Crested Flycatcher in *Brazoria* Jan. 18 (RWe). A few Great Kiskadees wandered away from their expected haunts; one was in *Burnet* Jan. 7 (*fide* JHe) while another was at Sugarland, *Harris*, Jan. 16 (DD). Unusual on the U.T.C., vocalizing Couch's Kingbirds were noted in *Brazoria* Jan. 3–Feb. 3 (RWe) and in *Fort Bend* Jan. 10 (TxB). Other Couch's Kingbirds of note included individuals in *Bexar* Dec. 20 (SWie), *New Braunfels* Jan. 16 (SAAS), and in *Floresville*, *Wilson*, Feb. 11 (WS). Unprecedented was a well-described Cassin's Kingbird in *Floyd* Feb. 27 (AFL, RF), no doubt an extremely early migrant. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers lingered late in several areas; at least three in *Flower Mound*, *Denton*, Dec. 12–13 (LHa); one in *Nacogdoches* Dec. 19 (*fide* D&MW); dozens in the San Antonio area in the last week of December (CD); and two on the U.T.C., (one in *Brazoria* and one in *Jefferson*) Jan. 17 (DVe, JWh). Six N. Shrikes were in the Panhandle area this winter, ranging from *Hansford* in the north to *Crosby* in the south (*fide* KS). All three "Solitary" vireos made appearances in the Trans-Pecos. Plumbeous Vireos were in *Balmorhea* (PHart) and *El Paso* Jan. 2 (ph. JPa); Blue-headed were in *Balmorhea* Jan. 2 (D&LH) and at *Big Bend's* Rio Grande Village all winter (ML, Mfl); and rounding out the "solitary" contingent was a Cassin's at Rio Grande Village Feb. 28 (BLu, FR).

JAYS THROUGH THRASHERS

In previous years, Brown Jays have occurred along the Rio Grande from the San Ygnacio

area downriver to near *Roma*, sometimes in good numbers. In recent seasons, however, the species is represented in Texas by only a small handful in the *Salñeno/Chapeño* area; its presence in the U.S. at this time is tenuous at best. Like the Brown Jay, *Tamaulipas* Crows appear to be withdrawing from Texas. This winter only two–three birds could be irregularly found at the *Brownsville* landfill. Curiously, the report of eight–ten *Tamaulipas* Crows heard and seen at *Laredo* Jan. 30 (JSe) was of interest. The species is known to winter around *Sabinas Hidalgo*, about 80 mi s. of *Laredo* (*fide* CS). A *Chihuahuan* Raven was reported at *Texas Pt.*, *Jefferson*, Feb. 10 (JWh), one of few U.T.C. records. The Com. Raven reported from *Galveston* in the fall was last seen Jan. 16 (m.ob.).

An early Purple Martin was in *College Station* Jan. 9 (SBr). A dozen Tree Swallows in *Grimes* Dec. 28 (BeF) were a bit n. of their normal coastal winter range while two Cave Swallows in *Lee* Jan. 4 (HBr) were at a similarly unexpected location. Even though just a short distance out of its regular *Pineywoods* range, a Brown-headed Nuthatch near *Gibbons Creek Res.*, *Grimes*, Dec. 28 (KA, JJ) was notable for this habitat specialist. Unexpected in winter in the Panhandle were single House Wrens at *Palo Duro Canyon* Dec. 11 (m.ob.) and *L. McClellan*, *Gray*, Feb. 27 (m.ob.). A local rarity was a Winter Wren in *Midland* Dec. 5 (BLu, RMS). The winter invasion of Golden-crowned Kinglets from the fall completely blanketed the state, including one in *El Paso* Feb. 19–22 (JPa) and others in the L.R.G.V. through the period. A single W. Bluebird in a flock of Easterns was found in *San Marcos* Dec. 3 (*fide* DHe). Unseasonal were a Wood Thrush at *Sabine Woods*, *Jefferson*, all period (JWh) and two at *China Spring*, *McLennan*, Dec. 19 (FB). At least seven different Clay-colored Robins were reported from *Hidalgo* and *Starr* during the season (m.ob.). The invasion of Am. Robins was particularly evident on the U.T.C. southward to the L.R.G.V. A few Sage Thrashers strayed a little e. of their regular winter range with singles at *Parker*, *Bell*, *Burnet*, *Brazoria*, and *San Patricio* (m.ob.).

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS

The tail end of the Tennessee Warbler migration was anchored by single birds Dec. 11–13 in *Brazoria* and *Nueces*. A bit n. of its regular range, a Tropical Parula was in *Corpus Christi* Jan. 23 (RBe). A Yellow Warbler, very rare in winter, was found in *Brownsville* Jan. 25 (TB). Among the dozen

or more warbler species in *Anzalduas Park*, *Hidalgo*, from the last week of December through the period were two male Hermit Warblers, both of which were photographed (JCu, DN). This represents the first documented winter record of Hermit Warbler for Texas. Unexpected was a Black-throated Green Warbler in *Burleson* Feb. 8 (CL). Two Prairie Warblers wintered on the U.T.C., one in downtown *Houston* (WRI) and another at *Brazos Bend* (m.ob.). Palm Warblers off the coast included singles in *Brazos* Jan. 23 (BeF) and *Bastrop* Jan. 30 (BFr). A Prothonotary Warbler discovered on the *Aransas CBC* Dec. 29 was spotted again Jan. 16 (PDH) while another was at *Refugio* Jan. 12 (CC). A first winter record for the Panhandle was provided by two Com. Yellowthroats at *Caprock Canyons* Dec. 31–Feb. 20 (TFe, m.ob.). Extremely rare in winter for *Big Bend* was a Wilson's Warbler in *Santa Elena Canyon* Jan. 5 (BFr, PHo). Adding to the increasing reports in recent years, a Rufous-capped Warbler was seen near *San Antonio* Dec. 20 (†SWie).

A Summer Tanager was reported in *Kingsland*, *Llano*, Dec. 14 (*fide* JHe) Unusual for the U.T.C. was a Green-tailed Towhee in *Harris* Dec. 9 (DPr). At the w fringe of their known range, E. Towhees were reported in w. *Travis*, *Burnet*, and w *Bexar*. Concerted effort was made to locate wintering Henslow's Sparrows as part of Project Prairie Birds. This resulted in reports of at least 25 individuals scattered across e. Texas from *Rains* s. to *Liberty* (m.ob.). A Harris's Sparrow at *McNary Res.*, *Hudspeth*, Dec. 19 was well out-of-range (JPa). Two Golden-crowned Sparrows were newsworthy; one was on private property in *Live Oak* Nov. 27–Jan. 3 (†ph J&SHol) while another was in *Hudspeth* Dec. 19 (†JPa). Very rare for the *Edward's Plateau*, a "Gray-headed" Junco was netted Feb. 4 at *Ingram*, *Kerr* (ph. A&HR). Away from their traditional wintering areas were 40+ Smith's Longspurs near *Trinidad*, *Henderson*, Jan. 17 (TPo). Farther afield was a single Smith's Longspur at *Nacogdoches* Dec. 22 (DW).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

Stray Pyrrhuloxias turned up at 2 *Potter* locations during January (MK, B&JP). We received 4 reports of wintering Black-headed Grosbeaks away from their expected areas, including two in *Washington* and single birds in *Jeff Davis* and *Hays*. Curiously, we saw an influx of Dickcissels starting in mid-January. Most notable were individuals in *Angelina* Jan. 17 (NB), *Bentsen* Feb

4+ (KE), and *Tarrant* Feb. 17 (JWS). Many Dickcissels began appearing on the U.T.C. in January and into February with as many as 30 birds noted by the end of the season (m.ob.). The most interesting Rusty Blackbird report was one at Pedernales Falls Jan. 10 (BRe). Observers reported a significant southern movement of Com. Grackles into the L.R.G.V.

A Baltimore Oriole was seen at San Antonio Jan. 6 (*vide* GSc). Pine Siskins were virtually non-existent in c. and s. Texas. Out-of-place were single Lesser Goldfinches in Plano, *Collin*, during January (*vide* DHu) and in Groesbeck, *Limestone*, Jan. 22–Feb. 3 (W&BF, S&ASi). The only Evening Grosbeak reported to us for the entire winter was a single bird in Amarillo, *Randall*, Dec. 13–Feb. 13 (EK).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

A Brant in *Knox* Jan. 13, three California Gulls and Thayer's Gull in Dallas Feb. 5–16, and Blue Bunting at Bentsen.

Cited Observers (subregional editors in boldface):

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