

texas region

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An intriguing contrast took shape in Texas between the migration and the migration watchers. South Texas and the Texas Coast are premier destinations for thousands of birders annually. And while those areas rarely disappoint, Bradford remarked that we could “chalk one up for the migrants” this year, meaning that there were few serious fronts to create spectacular fallouts on the coast that observers are always hoping to see. Although species richness on the coast was high, numbers were low (except for shorebirds). A minor grounding occurred 16–18 April and the southern areas had another 1–2 May. Yet as we perused reports farther and farther from the coast, our network of reporters used increasingly glowing adjectives. Sekula described “a spring to sing about” in central Texas, especially in May. A very wet season in the Panhandle, where Amarillo had its second wettest spring ever, yielded a “remarkable” compilation of sightings (Seyffert). North-central Texas may have had similar good migration watching, but our reporting network was unexpectedly sparse in that heavily populated area. Out in West Texas, another popular birding destination, there was a sharp reversal late in the season from exceedingly dry conditions to a nice, wet late May. Those early dry conditions apparently delayed the arrival of much of the breeding bird contingent by two weeks or so, but Bryan’s compilation of reports of rare migrants seemed to span both the dry and wet portions of the season. Sprinkled through these paragraphs one will find the usual suite of phenomena: late winter lingers, eastern birds west, western birds east, a push of southern stuff slightly north. Some of the faces in these expected trends are familiar (Red-headed Woodpecker, Ringed Kingfisher, Western Tanager), whereas others are not among those we typically mention in this light (Hermit Warbler, Varied Bunting). Although gulls and *Empidonax* flycatchers might send some observers running in the opposite direction, we had new Texas records in each of these groups, thankful of rather readily identifiable species.

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Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Fort 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 Co.*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee, Texas Ornithological Society*); U.T.C.



Hybrids and other oddities hold a special fascination, and this odd heron at Rockport, Texas, 10 May 1999, is no different. If a hybrid, the general plumage pattern suggests that a Tricolored Heron was one parent, but the other parent is less clear. Interestingly, the plumage and bare parts bear a resemblance to some Little Egret × Western Reef-Heron hybrids (see Hancock 1999, *Hérons and Egrets of the World*, Academic Press).

Photograph/John Ingram

(Upper Texas Coast); V.C.D.B. (*Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarrant Co.*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Anzalduas, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Laguna Atascosa, Lost Maples, Mad Island Marsh, Palmetto, Santa Ana, and Sea Rim.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

A Red-throated Loon was in Galveston 13 Mar (†WRi). Five Pacific Loons scattered across the e. half of the state were about normal for recent years; the latest stayed until 16 May at Galveston. Five Com. Loons in the Panhandle in April and May were more than anticipated for that area (KS); two in *Donley* stayed until 2 May (IO) as did another at L. Waco (FB). Least Grebe numbers rebounded this spring in s. Texas from last year's. Extralimital reports of Least Grebes included one in *Brazoria* 14–15 Mar (RWe), and one in *Lee* 11–19 Mar for a county first (HBr); other surprising reports included up to 6 pairs (at least one pair nested) in *Victoria* in May (RW) and a nesting

pair at San Antonio's Mitchell L. in April and May (m.ob.). A W. Grebe provided a nice find at Laguna Atascosa 10–12 Mar (BMc). The passage of 4500 Am. White Pelicans over Poth, *Wilson*, 3 Apr (WS, m.ob.) turned heads. Three Little Blue Herons were found in *Randall* 22–23 May (m.ob.). A strange heron, possibly a hybrid (Tricolored × ?), was photographed near Rockport 10 May (CC, JIn). Unusual for Midland was a Tricolored Heron at a small pond 4 Apr (FW). An unseasonal ad. Reddish Egret was at L. Balmorhea 2 May (RH); most wanderers are in the fall. Glossy Ibises continue to be regular in small numbers along the coastal prairies, but one at V.C.D.B. 8 May (JWS) was well inland.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Richland-Chambers W.M.A., *Freestone/Navarro*, were rare for e. Texas (CCo). A Ross's Goose 19 May at L. Tyler, *Smith*, was late (PBa). A Tundra Swan wintered at S.S.W.T.P. and lingered until late March (m.ob.). Abilene

hosted a Surf Scoter 3–10 May (LB) for an unusual area record, while a late Bufflehead was at Round Rock, *Williamson*, 8 May (TFen). A Long-tailed Duck remained at L. Tawakoni Dec–6 Mar (MWh, PBa). A late Com. Goldeneye was at Mitchell L. 11 Apr (GSc), while a very late Red-breasted Merganser was at Granger L., *Williamson*, 23 May (TFen). Two Masked Ducks in *Kenedy* 20 Mar (†BF, C&LG) were the only reported this year.

The dark-morph Hook-billed Kite, first documented last winter, was seen 7 Mar at Bentsen (B&PBe, GSw). There were 2 remarkable n. Texas reports of Swallow-tailed Kites, one in *Grayson* 13 Apr (JCh, JMo) and another in *Clay* 16 May (*fide* DMc). A group of 12 Swallow-taileds were perched together in *Hardin* 16 May (SG), and a nest was discovered in *Orange* in May (*fide* CSh, GSi), only the 5th documented nest in Texas since 1914. Odd were four Mississippi Kites on the barrier island at Packery Channel 27 Apr (A&MC). Gray Hawks were seen at Bentsen and Anzalduas and a pair had begun to nest at the latter in April. A Com. Black-Hawk was photographed near Lubbock 1 Apr (ERoo) and, amazingly, another was photographed in a city park in Amarillo, *Potter*, 21 Apr (LSa, m.ob., ph. RSc); the species nested at Rio Grande Village (Big Bend) and was found as usual in the Davis Mts. Three reports of Broad-winged Hawks in the Trans-Pecos were unusual, with one in Madera Canyon, Davis Mts., 15 Apr (JKa), another in nearby Limpia Canyon 9 May (ML), and a final bird was at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso*, 29 May (JPa, BZ). Beginning 6 Apr, a light-morph ad. Short-tailed Hawk was reported periodically at Lost Maples (†RNa, m.ob.) to 20 Apr, about the 3rd for the Texas Hill Country. A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks photographed at Colorado Bend, *San Saba*, 19 Apr (DN et al.) suggested the interesting possibility of being on a nesting territory. A Crested Caracara photographed in *Delta* 18 Apr (MWh) was probably at the n.e. edge of their range in Texas. A pair of Am. Kestrels nested successfully in *Midland* (ph. MSt).

QUAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A report of seven Montezuma Quail in G.M.N.P. 19 Mar (TFi) was the first there in 3 years. The King Rails reported in the winter in *Nacogdoches* were still present in early May and may have nested (DW). Two early northbound Black-bellied Plovers were at *Midland* 26 Mar (J&DMe). A report of a possible Pacific Golden-Plover in *Calhoun* 16–17 Apr (†BF, J&BRi) will be reviewed by the T B R C; if accepted it would represent a

first state record. Three Snowy Plovers were a nice find for the spring in *Williamson* 19 Apr (TFen). Seventeen Mt. Plovers were still at Granger L., *Williamson*, 1 Mar (TFen). About 14 different Willets, relatively numerous for that region, were in the Panhandle counties of *Carson*, *Randall*, and *Gray* in early May. Inland Whimbrel reports included one in *Gray* 8 May (EK), four at Cooper L., *Delta*, 13 May (MWh), one at *Midland* 15 May (RMS), and a final bird at Austin's Hornsby Bend 18 May (SM). Even for a fairly common bird in the Panhandle, a group of 900 Long-billed Curlews in *Briscoe* 14 Mar was an unusually large number so early in the season (TM). A nice group of 28 Hudsonian Godwits 9 May in *Navarro* (TPo) was eclipsed by a flock of 80 at Cooper L. 13 May (MWh). Two more good godwit gatherings included 38 Marbleds at Buffalo L. 4 May (BiMc et al.) and 11 Marbleds in Austin 11 May (m.ob.). An early inland Ruddy Turnstone was at Fort Phantom L., *Jones*, 27 Mar (*fide* LB). A Sanderling was photographed at L. Balmorhea 10 May (GL, ML) for a rare spring record in the Trans-Pecos. *Midland* hosted an Am. Woodcock 1–8 May (RMS). Five Red-necked Phalaropes were reported: one in *Calhoun* 4 May (PH) and three more there 8 May (BF), one at Austin 11–15 May (JA), and one in S.S.W.T.P. 14 May (K&MWh). Much rarer was a Red Phalarope photographed at San Luis Pass, *Galveston*, 21 Apr (JSt).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

A worn Pomarine Jaeger lingered on the beach at Port Aransas 20–30 May (JGi). A first-summer Laughing Gull was on McNary Res., *El Paso*, 2 May (RHo). The banded Black-headed Gull at V.C.D.B. lingered until mid-March (GK). *Mason* virtually lacks surface water of any size so a Bonaparte's Gull there 31 Mar was an odd find (BoF, DF). Texas's first **Black-tailed Gull** disappeared in late February but was rediscovered 5 Mar (JO); it hung around at the Brownsville landfill until about 18 Mar (m.ob.). Four California Gulls were almost expected at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso*, in early May (BZ); another three–four Californias were on the U.T.C. in March, and a single bird was at Cooper L. 19–20 May (ph. MWh). About 15 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported on the coast. Two or three Glaucous Gulls on the U.T.C. were about normal. A dark-backed gull at the Brownsville landfill 5 Mar to mid-Mar was considered a possible Kelp × Herring hybrid (JO, BO et al.). A collection of 14 Caspian Terns at Granger L. 8 May was a large inland group (TFen); two more at

College Station 31 Mar furnished a nice find (ERat), as did a Com. Tern at Austin 18 May (RFe). Birders in *Midland* were rewarded with a Least Tern 24 Apr; two more showed up in Lubbock (PKi).

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

A Eur. Collared-Dove was found in *Gorman*, *Eastland*, 10 Mar (GaW) and resighted 24 May (FB, JMu), and a small colony was discovered in Balmorhea, *Reeves*, 2 May (RHo) and seen periodically through the season; both were probably new county records. Another 2 May (BH) provided a new record for *Kinney*. White-winged Doves continued their spread in Texas. There was a major movement in the Dallas area (*fide* DaH), and records accumulated in *Nacogdoches*, *Smith*, and *Washington*. A common pattern is for White-winged to jump to major metropolitan areas, build up a population base, and begin colonizing smaller urban and residential areas on the periphery of such areas. A Com. Ground-Dove in *Delta* 17 May (MWh) was a very rare find, the species also settled into Balcones Canyonlands in numbers in May for the 2nd consecutive year (CS). Inching eastward, a White-tipped Dove provided a first for *Calhoun* 27–28 Mar (JA, BF, PH). Many nesting Green Parakeets were noted around urban areas in the L.R.G.V. John O'Brien observed an impressive mix of *Amazona* parrots in Brownsville 5 Mar, including 75 Red-crowneds, 15 Red-loreds, 8 Lilac-crowneds, and 10 White-fronteds. The westernmost Black-billed Cuckoo of the season was at Lubbock 16 May (AF). A new *Lee* record was established by a Groove-billed Ani 24 Apr (HBr). A Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was found at Bentsen 8 Apr (JI) for a rare *Hidalgo* report; more surprising was a well-documented sighting at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend 20 Apr (RT, NM-C et al.). There were 2 previous undocumented reports for the Park. An annual owl survey at G.M.N.P. in April–May encountered Spotted Owl in 2 locations plus maximum counts of five N. Saw-whets and seven Flamulateds. A Short-eared Owl in *Victoria* 17 Apr was very late (RW). *Midland* recorded its 3rd Chuck-will's-widow 15 May (JMe).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Chimney Swift, accidental at the w edge of Texas, was over *El Paso* 22 May (BZ). A **Green-breasted Mango** was in Los Fresnos, *Cameron*, 22–23 May (m.ob., †BMc, ph BHo), Texas' 7th record. A remarkable four Broad-billed Hummingbirds were detected in the Davis Mts., with a female at the East-

man's feeders 21–24 Apr and a male there 27–29 May, a male in Ft. Davis proper 22 Apr to the end of the period (ph. KB), and a male at the Hedges' home 31 May–2 Jun. Single Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were in *Bastrop* 26 Apr (KK) and at Palmetto 6 Apr–11 May (m.ob.); a remarkable 3 separate reports came in from *Washington* 3 Mar–5 May (m.ob.). As they searched for the Blue Mockingbird at Weslaco 10 May, Sekula and Lehman encountered a **Violet-crowned Hummingbird**; it stayed through 12 May, establishing the first L.R.G.V. record and 5th for the state (ph., †m.ob.). A Lucifer Hummingbird was at the El Canelo Ranch in *Kenedy*, 11 Apr, a first for deep s. Texas (†RT). Single male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, accidental in spring in the Trans-Pecos, were at Ft. Davis 22–24 Apr (KB) and at Big Bend 22–23 May (MF). A late migrant Broad-tailed Hummingbird was at Kerrville 29–30 May (TxB). Wandering NE of its normal range, a Ringed Kingfisher was at Mad I. Marsh, *Matagorda*, 11 Apr (JSt) while another was on the Llano R. on the *Mason/Llano* line in late May (TEt et al.). Red-headed Woodpeckers that moved into the coastal bend and s. Texas lingered into April (perhaps holdovers from the winter incursion), and one was in *Mason* 23 Mar (BoF, DF) and another at Ft. Clark Springs, *Kinney*, 2 May (BH). This species was hard to find in its regular range in the Brazos Valley (*vide* BeF). A Hairy Woodpecker on the coast at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson*, 1 May was out-of-range (J&BRi).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH BECARD

Five singing N. Beardless-Tyrannulets were noted at Bentsen and Anzalduas. A 26 Apr Olive-sided Flycatcher set an early migrant date at *Nacogdoches* (DW). Documentation will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C. for two Greater Pewees, one at Pine Canyon, Big Bend, 29 Apr (RW) and the other at Lubbock 6 May (DSte), a first for the High Plains. A Gray Flycatcher was well-described in w. *Bexar* 22 May (BDo), way to the east of its expected range.

A rare nesting Black Phoebe was at Weslaco throughout April, a single was in another *Hidalgo* location 23–24 Apr (JA), and an extralimital bird was in Kingsville 24 Mar (GP). Three reports of Vermilion Flycatchers from *Lubbock* up to *Garza* were a bit more than normal for the High Plains. A possible Dusky-capped Flycatcher was described in Big Bend 12 Apr (L&NL). There was a surprising set of at least seven extralimital Great Kiskadees at Leon Springs, *Bexar*, 1–2 Apr (GSc), *Chambers* 8 Apr (JA),

SA One of the major events of the spring in the Trans-Pecos was the discovery of a singing male **Buff-breasted Flycatcher** and copulating pair in the Davis Mts. Preserve (Nature Conservancy of Texas), *Jeff Davis*, 3 May (†JKa, EH et al.). Bryan, Karges, and others (MA, D&LH) relocated the male and obtained great documentation 5 and 7 May (ph., recordings to T.B.R.C.) to confirm this species for Texas. There were undocumented reports from Big Bend in 1969 and 1994. The summer report will have further information on the nesting effort.

Hornsby Bend in Austin 12 Apr (RC), New Braunfels, *Comal*, 28 Apr (JMc), and two separate birds in *Calhoun* 27 Apr and 8 May (PH). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was a great find on w. Galveston I. 22–23 May (ph. JSt); another Sulphur-bellied/Streaked Flycatcher was at High I. 5 May (JHo).

A pair of Tropical Kingbirds in McAllen 9 Mar was away from their limited range in the L.R.G.V. (JMu, FB). For the 4th consecutive year a pair of Tropical Kingbirds were at Cottonwood Campground (Big Bend) 7 May onward (GL, ML). A vocalizing Tropical Kingbird was photographed on Bolivar Pen., *Galveston*, 27 Apr to provide the first documented U.T.C. record (RBo, SK). A few Couch's Kingbirds were at the s. edge of the Hill Country at Park Chalk Bluff 12–26 Apr and at Concan 26 Apr, both in *Uvalde* (RHo). A rare migrant Cassin's Kingbird was at Midland 25 Apr (LEG). An excessively early W. Kingbird was in *Randall* 4 Mar (TLJ). A nesting pair of Rose-throated Becards was studied at Anzalduas 24 Apr onward (†, ph. CSh, ND et al.); they have not nested in Texas in more than 20 years.

VIREOS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

Local and rare in e. Texas in recent years as a breeder, three Bell's Vireos were on territory at Alazan W.M.A., *Nacogdoches*, 1 & 5 May (DW). A migrant female Black-capped Vireo in San Marcos 8–10 May (DHe) was not far from the species nesting range, but migrants away from breeding areas are rare. A pair was on territory near the Red R. in *Montague* for the 2nd consecutive year (HG); the male arrived 22 Apr, followed by the female 7 May. A Cassin's Vireo at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr*, 14 Mar (BBe, TE) raises the question of the limits of the winter range of this species. A Cassin's Vireo was also reported in *Bexar*, and Plumbeous Vireos were reported in *Bexar*, *Lee*, and

Midland, but we see few to no details on this difficult-to-identify group. Three Yellow-throated Vireos, a Regional rarity, were found in the Panhandle (*vide* KS). Amazingly, four Hutton's Vireos were reported in the Hill Country, with one near Kerrville 29 Mar (TG), two birds at different *Uvalde* locations 13–20 Apr (RHo), and one at Government Canyon, *Bexar*, 26 Apr (ML). The only other Hill Country report was a nesting record in *Real* in 1990. A Yellow-green Vireo was described at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson*, 24–28 Apr (†BBe, JWh, KSz) and another was videotaped at Anahuac 30 Apr (J&BRi). Two more Yellow-greens were reported at Quintana, *Brazoria*, 28 May (†C&OB). A Black-whiskered Vireo was discovered at Sea Rim 29 Apr (†SiG), while another was on Bolivar Pen. 8 May (†NB, JeM, WB et al.), representing the 14th and 15th Texas records if accepted by the T.B.R.C.

No Tamaulipas Crows were reported in the Brownsville area this spring. Tree Swallows arrived in *Harrison* 11 Mar (GLu, EdR) and in late April had moved into nest boxes in that n.e. Texas area. A very rare find on the U.T.C., a Violet-green Swallow was in *Jefferson* 24 Apr (KBa). Cave Swallows continued to garner attention at previously reported locations in the s. half of the state; notable occurrences included a first *Grimes* record near Navasota 23 Apr (20 nesting birds; FC), and three immatures at Cooper L., *Delta*, 24–25 May (MWh) where they are not known to be established. A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches fledged young in an urban Dallas neighborhood in mid-April (DHu) for a first county breeding record in many years. Fennell documented probable breeding activities of White-breasted Nuthatches at 3 *Williamson* locations.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

A male Carolina Wren in full song at Castolon on the w. side of Big Bend was unusual for that side of the park (KB et al.). Golden-crowned Kinglets, especially numerous the previous winter, hung around late, including one at McKinney Roughs, *Bastrop*, 2 May (DPy). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was a great find in Lubbock 3 Apr (AF). Clay-colored Robins were in at least 5 *Hidalgo* and *Starr* locations as nesters or probable nesters (m.ob.). It was a good spring for Brown Thrashers in the Trans-Pecos, with a total of five birds scattered across the region 10 Apr–15 May (m.ob.). A few Long-billed Thrashers well n. of their normal range were at Balcones Canyonlands, including a singing male on one Refuge tract in early April to mid-May (BLY) and two singing birds on

SA One of the great rarities of the season was Texas' first **Blue Mockingbird** discovered in Weslaco 9 May by Lehman. Although tough to observe, good documentation was finally obtained on this exceedingly shy species (m.ob.) including photos, videotape, and tape recordings. The bird was observed sporadically in late May and into June. Although its natural occurrence might be questioned, many veteran Texas observers had expected it in Texas eventually, as it nests in Mexico only about 250 mi s. of Brownsville.

another tract (all in *Burnet*) in late April (JKe). No females were seen and no evidence of breeding was noted.

Freeman found a migrant group of 90 Sprague's Pipits in n. Austin 11 Mar. A brief description of a reportedly photographed male Olive Warbler at Rio Grande Village 23 Mar was deposited at the Big Bend headquarters (RBu). We received a description of a Colima Warbler in G.M.N.P. 29 May (AF); in the United States, this species is thought to be confined to the Chisos Mts. of Big Bend, but stay tuned for our summer report for more surprising news. In contrast to w. Texas, where Colimas arrived a few weeks late, there were several slightly early arrival dates for n. and e. Texas warblers (both migrants and breeders) such as N. Parula 9 Mar in *Brazos*, Yellow 7 Apr in *Angelina*, Louisiana Waterthrush 11 Mar in *Nacogdoches*, Com. Yellowthroat 21 Mar in *Smith* and 2 Apr at Buffalo L., and Hooded 15 Mar in *Angelina* (m.ob.). Warbler reports dominated the news from the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos (table). Prominent in this season's drift of eastern warblers westward were N. Parula, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Prothonotary, Swainson's, and Hooded. Golden-winged Warblers were particularly common on the Kenedy Ranch 2 May (BF) and in Austin (10 reports; *fide* AD). A Tropical Parula at Rio Grande Village 3 Apr was one many interesting records at Big Bend (BLa). Toward the w. edge of where expected were five Cape May Warblers in *Nueces* and *Cameron* in late April and early May, and another was in Austin 10 May (BF) where it is casual. On the central and upper coast, Black-throated Blue Warblers were seemingly "everywhere" (J&BRI), with 6-8 reports; they were also in Lubbock 25 Apr (TFer) and 17 May (RKO), and yet another was in Midland 13 May (JMe). Both Midland and Lubbock had a few records of Black-throated Gray and Townsend's war-

Interesting Spring Warbler Records for Texas			
Species	Date	Location	OBS
Blue-winged Warbler	2 May	Lubbock	AF
Blue-winged Warbler	2 May	Big Bend	MF
Golden-winged Warbler	7 May	Big Bend	GL, ML et al.
Tennessee Warbler	28 Apr	Big Bend	WRi
Virginia's Warbler	27 Mar	Falfurrias	DE
Virginia's Warbler	5 May	Buffalo L.	KS
Northern Parula	6 May	Davis Mts. S.P.	D&LH
Northern Parula	7 May	Buffalo L.	KS
Northern Parula	8 May	Lubbock	AF
Northern Parula	13 May	Midland	JMe
Chestnut-sided Warbler	18 Apr	Lubbock	AF
Chestnut-sided Warbler (3)	24 Apr-25 May	Big Bend	m.ob.
Townsend's Warbler	11 Apr	Anahuac	MaW
Townsend's Warbler	15-17 Apr	High Island	m.ob.
Townsend's Warbler	16-18 Apr	Quintana	TC
Townsend's Warbler	17-18 Apr	Galveston	WBu
Townsend's Warbler	28 Apr	Galveston I.	JSt
Hermit Warbler	10-12 Apr	Jefferson	RKn, KSz, JWh
Blackburnian Warbler	8 May	Randall	MLS
Blackburnian Warbler	9 May	Big Bend	TMo
Blackburnian Warbler	22 May	Buffalo L.	m.ob.
Yellow-throated Warbler (2)	7 Apr & 8 May	Big Bend	MF, TMo
Palm Warbler	28 Apr	Big Bend	WMa
Bigpoll Warbler	24 Apr	Big Bend	KB, MAd et al.
Prothonotary Warbler	25-30 Apr	Big Bend	WRi et al.
Prothonotary Warbler	5 May	Amarillo	RSc
Prothonotary Warbler	20 May	Buffalo L.	KS
Worm-eating Warbler	24 Apr	Lubbock	RKo
Worm-eating Warbler	28-30 Apr	Big Bend	WRi, RHo
Swainson's Warbler	11 Apr	Big Bend*	CN et al.
Swainson's Warbler	13 Apr	Big Bend*	B&IT
Swainson's Warbler	17 May†	Randall	DL, PT
Louisiana Waterthrush	8 & 18 May	Lubbock	JHa, RKO
Kentucky Warbler	1 May	Big Bend	PAB
Hooded Warbler	13 Apr	Lost Maples	RHo
Hooded Warbler	16 Apr	El Paso	BZ et al.
Hooded Warbler	29 Apr-2 May	Big Bend	BZu, MF
Hooded Warbler	25 Apr	Lubbock	AF, RKO

*At two separate locations in the park.
†1st for Panhandle.

blers, each much rarer in spring than fall. Note the unusual dose of Townsend's on the U.T.C. (table). One wintering Hermit Warblers at Anzalduas stayed until at least 13 Mar (JO, BP, BR). A Red-faced Warbler at Boot Spring was another great find in Big Bend 6 May (†EH et al.). Stepping out of its w. Texas haunts, a Painted Redstart was in the Hill Country at Lost Maples 15-16 Mar (EdR).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

About six W. Tanagers were reported on the coast, providing a typical spring showing. Arvin reported an impressive 12 singing White-collared Seedeaters in early March in expanding habitat caused by low water conditions along the Rio Grande in *Starr* and *Zapata*. Eastern Towhees at the w. margin of their winter range included singles in Corpus Christi 20-30 Mar (m.ob.), Callahan 25 Mar (*fide* LB), Hutchinson 10 Apr (EK, m.ob.), and Concan, *Uvalde*, 11 Apr through the end of the month (RHo, m.ob.).

A singing male in *Newton* was accompanied by a female 21 May (CSh, RBri); nesting has been hard to confirm e. Texas, on the periphery of its breeding range. A very late Vesper Sparrow was at Big Bend 28 May (JMu, FB). A Baird's Sparrow was well described in *Tarrant* 1 May (†JWS, BTo, PW). Late-departing Henslow's Sparrows in e. Texas included birds in *Nacogdoches* 10 Mar (MW, JaW), in *Freestone* 11 Apr (TPo), and at L. Tawakoni, *Rains*, 17 May (RK). A rare White-throated Sparrow was in El Paso 29 Mar-19 Apr (JPa). Even rarer was a Golden-crowned Sparrow discovered on the Texas-New Mexico line in *El Paso* 13 Apr (†P&JBo).

Pyrrhuloxias made it up to the Panhandle, with one near Palo Duro 23 Mar and 6 Apr (NK, RSc, PT) and another in *Hutchinson* 10 Apr (BiMc, EK, m.ob.). A female Blue Bunting was reported at Bentsen in early March (R&LG, m.ob.), but documentation was sparse and Indigo Buntings continue to be misidentified as this species. A male

Lazuli Bunting was in *Tarrant* 12 May, where it remained through the season (*fide* MR). Six Varied Buntings netted at a banding station in the Davis Mts. was the most ever for that site (KB, LH). Surprising were singles at High I. 16 Apr (WB, PH) and in *Calhoun* 27 Apr (PH). We remain unsure what caused the late winter incursion (early migration) of Dickcissels, but areas such as *Burleson*, *Calhoun*, *Lee*, *Walker*, and *Washington* all had the species in late February or March (m.ob.): A Bobolink photographed in *Carson* 21 May was a super find (EK, RSc). Rare in the Pineywoods, a Yellow-headed Blackbird was in *Nacogdoches* 17 Apr (CW). Although now "all over" *Midland*, a single Bronzed Cowbird was an unusual discovery at Lubbock 17 May (RKO).

A more pleasant discovery in Lubbock was a Hooded Oriole 23 May (AF). An impressive count of 80 Hoodeds was noted on the Kenedy Ranch 20 Mar; 25 Audubon's Orioles were at the same location 22-25 Apr (BF). There were 4 reports of Scott's Oriole on the e. edge of the Hill Country in the San Antonio and Austin areas; the northernmost was in Liberty Hill, *Williamson*, 18 Mar (DDK). An exciting find was two Red Crossbills calling from the tops of tall pines in *Angelina* 26 Apr (JaW). Completely out of range and season was a male Lesser Goldfinch at Quintana Beach 8 May (C&OB).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

Reports of the following Texas rarities were received with little or no supporting documentation: Great Black-backed Gull, *Galveston*, 16 Mar; calling N. Saw-whet Owls at G.M.N.P. in April-May; Rose-throated Becard at Bentsen in April; Baird's Sparrow in Big Bend in May; and three Red-faced Warblers in *El Paso* 11-20 May.

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