

Phelps, NE 30 Jul (LR, RH). Intriguing were reports of juv. Cave Swallows, one & 2 birds 29 Jun and 2 Jul at Red Slough (DA), and one to 2 birds at Hackberry 20 Jul (JAG); these are under review by the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee.

Unusual was a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches that fledged 2 young in *Sedgwick*, KS by 27 Jun (H&SG). Other errant Red-breasteds, possibly early migrants, were one in *Kimball*, NE and 2 in *Banner*, NE, both 29 Jul (SJD).

Another species with multiple subspecies in the Region is the White-breasted Nuthatch. The eastern form (*cookei*) summers in the Platte Valley w. to the Kearney area. One in *Scotts Bluff/Banner*, NE 3 Jul (AK) was only the 3rd summer report in the Wildcat Hills, but it was of undetermined race. Those taped in *Sioux*, NE are the Rocky Mountain form (*nelsoni*; CLW).

Apparently the first summer record of Winter Wren for Nebraska was of a territorial bird taped singing in *Cherry*, NE 23 May–13 Jun (CA). Unexpected was a Swainson's Thrush heard singing in *Harlan*, NE 6 Jul (GH, WH). Possibly an early migrant was a Sage Thrasher in *Kimball*, NE 29 Jul (SJD, JF).

There was only a handful of warbler records

upon which to comment—hopefully not an ominous sign. A surprise was a Blue-winged Warbler w. in *Cherry*, NE 5-6 Jun (CA). Tardy were a Tennessee Warbler in *Seward*, NE 10-11 Jun (JG), and a Chestnut-sided Warbler in *Washington/Douglas*, NE 8 Jun (JBr). The small population of Cerulean Warblers in Omaha, NE area was reduced to 2 single males (BP, LP). Wandering w. was a Northern Parula 1 Jul in *Butler*, KS (PJ). Pine Warblers fledged young in *Tulsa* (BC), an outlying site. Yellow-breasted Chats, now casual in e. Nebraska, were seen in *Saunders* 21 Jul (MO). A recent fledgling was found in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 3 Jul (AK).

South of typical range was a Spotted Towhee in *Pawnee*, KS 18 Jun (SS). A Brewer's Sparrow carrying food in *Dundy*, NE 21 Jul (WRS) provided a first apparent breeding record for this county. Henslow's Sparrows were detected at four locations in se. Nebraska (*fide* WRS), with a singing male seen west to *Clay*, NE (JGJ). A Bachman's Sparrow, a species with a very local distribution in e. Oklahoma, was noted 4 & 9 Jun in *Osage*, OK (BG).

Generally spotty in distribution s. of the Platte Valley, a male Bobolink was in *Phelps*, NE 18 Jun (GH, WH). A prairie in *Buffalo*, NE hosted at least 26 on 3 Jul (LR, RH). Certainly a surprise was a **Pine Grosbeak** seen briefly at

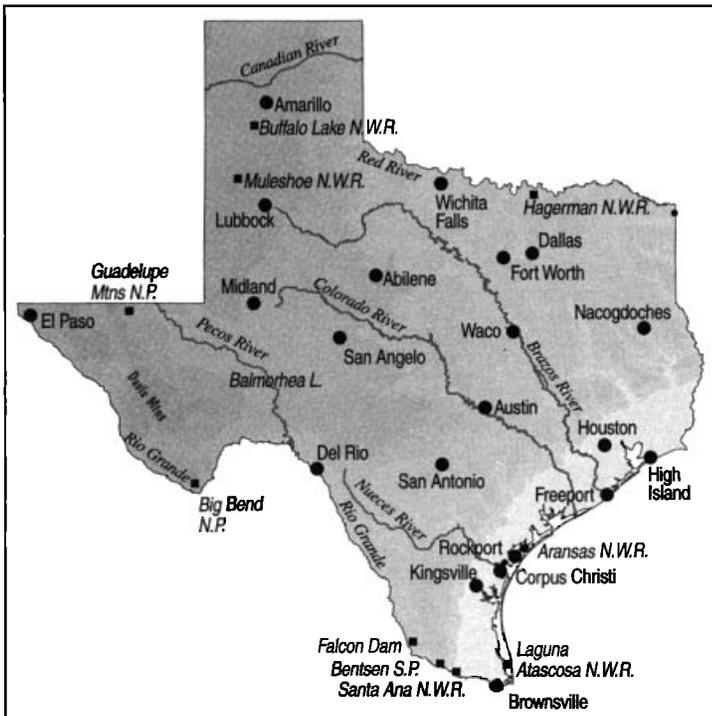
feeders in *Scotts Bluff/Banner*, NE 10 Jun (JS) Lesser Goldfinches visited feeders in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 12-15 Jun (JCI *fide* AK); at least one was a green-backed male (*fide* WRS).

Cited observers (area editors boldfaced)

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Texas



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“We actually had a winter!” was the surprised refrain of several observers, reflecting the memory of mild conditions of recent years. There were repeated cold snaps through December and January, and the period was quite wet over most of the state. Yet we seemed to have just the right combination of timing and pattern of fronts to hold many lingering birds in the shelter of the coastal zone while pushing winter’s usual visitors a bit farther coastward. The montane/western invasion of the fall was a conspicuous theme in the western half of the state, and it sent many ambassadors well to the south and east. Drought conditions still plagued deepest south Texas, but most of the Trans-Pecos was wet enough to anticipate a marvelous late winter wildflower bloom of immense diversity. The latter area still lacked a good seed crop for grassland species, however,

due to the earlier dry conditions. Perhaps for similar reasons, grassland birds were also very sparse in the Panhandle. Seed eaters, including towhees, sparrows, buntings, and longspurs among others, had clearly shifted into the eastern portions of the state.

With this column we bring Dr. Mark Adams on board as Trans-Pecos subregional editor. Mark is a well-traveled and enthusiastic student of birds and everything else under (and beyond) the sun (...when not chasing birds, Dr. Adams is also Superintendent of the University of Texas's McDonald Observatory). We'll now expect our long-time friend and colleague Kelly Bryan to quit goofing off, get out there, and find some *really* interesting birds for us! Many thanks to KB for years of great reporting.

Abbreviations: L.R.G.V. (Lower Rio Grande Valley); T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee); T.C.W.C. (Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection; Texas A & M Univ.); T.P.W.D. (Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks and wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Buffalo Lake, Choke Canyon, Hueco Tanks, Richland Creek, Sabal Palm, and San Bernard.

Loons Through Herons

Two or 3 Red-throated Loons were seen at two Trans-Pecos reservoirs periodically, most regularly at Imperial Res., *Pecos* (MAD et al.). At least 11 Pacific Loons were scattered around the state, mostly in e. and coastal Texas, but also including a bird at Imperial Res., *Pecos* and singles in the South Plains in Dec and Feb. A **Yellow-billed Loon** discovered by the Colleys in the Brownsville Ship Channel 22 Dec represented the 5th Texas record and a first for the Gulf of Mexico (ph., †to TBRC). The bird went undetected again until 25 Feb, when it began to be seen regularly. Although occasionally viewed from shore, regular boating trips were the best opportunity dozens of birders had to find this rarity; it remained through the season. A Red-necked Grebe provided a very rare Trans-Pecos record at Imperial Res. 22 Dec (M & AC). A great find by Noreen Baker and George Saulnier was a Red-necked Grebe on L. Austin, *Travis* 18 Dec-14 Jan, a first Austin record. Almost as rare was a Clark's Grebe in Lubbock 16 Dec (CSt, BPh). Numbers of both Clark's and Western Grebes are still on the increase in the Trans-Pecos; most unexpected were young Clark's chicks at McNary 14 & 17 Dec (ph. BZ). A Band-



This Yellow-billed Loon near Port Isabel in southernmost Texas became a regular fixture after late February, providing a first Gulf of Mexico record. Photograph from video by Scarlet & George Colley.

rumped Storm-Petrel was brought to a rehabilitator in early Mar; the bird had crashed into a fishing boat off Port Isabel 27 Feb (*fide* RWe). This is one of very few winter records of the species in the Gulf of Mexico. An imm. Brown Pelican was another unexpected find at McNary 21 Feb (JZ). A Neotropic Cormorant was in Nacogdoches 15-27 Feb where they are quite rare (JFa, DW, MW). An Anhinga was unexpected away from the coast 19 Feb in *Bastrop* (BFR). As many as 3 Reddish Egrets were at L. Balmorhea, *Reeves* through the period, and another 2 were at nearby Imperial Res. (m.ob.). A mixed flock of 2 Black-crowned and 7 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on Barton Creek 31 Jan was unseasonal for Austin (MW).

Waterfowl Through Raptors

A pair of swans on a small pond in *Hemphill* 7 & 10 Dec proved to be Trumpeters (ph. BPi, et al.); the pond soon froze and the swans departed, but the landowner reported their apparent return later in the winter. Four Tundra Swans were on a private lake in *Burleson* 30-31 Dec (*fide* BeF); 2 more were reported in *Burnet* 3 Jan (DY). A "wigeon with a red head" reported at a hunter check station in *Brazoria* may represent a first county record of Eurasian Wigeon if researchers can ever catch up with that hunter to verify the record! Three White-winged Scoters were reported on the U.T.C.; of more significance was a pair of White-wingeds on a small lake at Balcones Canyonlands near Austin 29 Nov (KBo), a first Refuge record. There were an unusual number of Long-tailed Ducks in e. Texas: up to 3 were at various L. Tawakoni sites from late Nov into early Dec, and others were on L. O' the Pines 28-30 Dec; on the coast, single Long-taileds were seen at Bolivar Flats 5-6 Feb and at San Luis Pass 28

Feb (m.ob.). Both Common Goldeneye and Common Mergansers were seen in e. Texas and far w. Texas in increased numbers compared to an average winter, presumably due to frozen water to the north.

White-tailed Kites were rare finds in *Milam* 19 Dec (CM), *Grimes* 27 Jan (S & DWi), and *Nacogdoches* Feb-Mar (JF). A Bald Eagle in El Paso 2 Dec+ was one of very few records there (JSp, BZ). Zimmer discovered an imm Northern Goshawk at Hueco Tanks 21 Feb, only the 2nd documented *El Paso* record. A Harris's Hawk in the c. Edwards Plateau in *Mason* 20 Dec was unusual (BoF, DFu), as was another on the Anahuac C.B.C. 28 Dec (JSt) Well to the n., a Harris's graced Channing, *Hartley* in the Panhandle 2 Feb (MCA, AF). A **Roadside Hawk** was discovered 11 Dec at Bentsen and seen at least through 15 Dec (ph J & PC). As has often been the case, the bird was very elusive and was glimpsed by few other observers through early Feb. This is only the 4th documented record for Texas and the United States. A Red-shouldered Hawk was a rare find near Fort Davis 11-31 Dec (KB et al.) There were two cen. Texas reports of White-tailed Hawks: one at L. Buchanan 12 Dec (MxH), and another near Manor 21 Jan (JMu)

Quail Through Terns

Gambel's Quail appeared to be increasing in far w. Texas sites such as at Hueco Tanks (*fide* BZ). Droughty conditions were blamed for Yellow Rails being tough to come by in their usual U.T.C. haunts. A Black Rail was a complete surprise in Lubbock 16 Dec (PK) Sandhill Cranes wintered in unexpectedly large numbers in the cen. Brazos Valley and Post Oak Savannah region of Texas (*fide* BeF) The wintering Whooping Crane population in

the Aransas area peaked at 180 birds (TSt). A Piping Plover survey from Jefferson to Matagorda produced a count of only 121 birds in the first two weeks of Feb (*vide* PG), down from 404 in 1991 and 176 in 1996 for the same stretch of beach. The Williamson wintering population of Mountain Plovers peaked at 67 on 20 Jan (TF). Six Mountain Plovers in Lee 14 Dec were a first county record (CHam). A Long-billed Curlew in Gregg 16 Dec (GLu) and 3 Pectoral Sandpipers in Henderson 29 Dec (TrP) provided very rare inland winter records. Two Dunlin at Midland 5 & 15 Feb provided first winter records there (FR, RMS). A Ruff was at El Canelo Ranch, Willacy 29 Dec–1 Jan (*vide* BMC, ph. SBe).

The previously reported Finnish-banded Black-headed Gull in n. Texas departed early with Bonaparte's 21 Dec (*vide* MRe). Three Mew Gulls (including 2 ads.) were on the U.T.C., another 3–4 were at L. Worth (MRe), and another ad. Mew provided a 2nd El Paso record 13 Jan (JPa). There was a glut of California Gulls on the coast, with over a dozen reports. An imm. Thayer's was on Galveston's East Beach periodically from mid-Dec to late Jan (m.ob.), and an ad. was there 30 Jan & 4 Feb (MAu, JO). An ad. Thayer's Gull was at the Corpus Christi landfill, Nueces 24 Feb (vt. J & BRI, WS). Three more Thayer's were reported in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area (*vide* MRe). Along with a slew on the coast, a few Lesser Black-backed Gulls were also noted in Austin (CM, TF et al.) and at L. Worth (MRe). Most notable was an ad. Lesser Black-backed at Richland Cr. 18 Feb (PBa), which provided a first Freestone record. An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was at the L. Livingston spillway, San Jacinto/Polk 9–11 Dec (DCa et al.). A very rare winter sighting of Sooty Tern was made at Arroyo City, Cameron 24 Feb (BCo).

Doves Through Nightjars

Eurasian Collared-Doves settled into the L.R.G.V. with one reported at Rancho Viejo, Cameron 3 Feb (BMc); just to the n., over 20 had been seen at grain elevators in Kleberg in early Jan (MAN). There was the first Brewster record of Eurasian Collared-Dove at Alpine 11–13 Dec (BC), and a small colony was discovered in El Paso in mid-Feb, a 2nd county record (BZ). Six more counties can be added to those hosting Collared-Doves in the Panhandle: Dickens, Donley, Foard, Hartley, Hutchinson, and Moore. Indicative of numbers up north were 50 or so in Texline, Dallam 8 Dec (CS). A count of 33 Common Ground-Doves at San Bernard 20 Jan was exceptionally high for the U.T.C. (DV); another unusual find

were two Ground-Doves in San Augustine 3 Jan (DW et al.). Two campers at the Thompson Grove near Texline, Dallam heard a calling Western Screech-Owl 2 Feb (MCA, AF), providing only the 2nd Panhandle report. Up to 9 Burrowing Owls wintering in the Granger L. area suggested a good influx into cen. Texas (TF). A Long-eared Owl found on the Freepoint C.B.C. 17 Dec constituted only the 2nd Brazoria record (JBr et al.). The number of Northern Saw-whet Owls in the Panhandle and w. Texas was unbelievable: an injured Saw-whet were recovered in Lubbock 5 Dec, rehabilitated, and released (CMi); an imm. Saw-whet was in a Randall neighborhood 8 Dec, followed by an ad. at the same site 10 Dec (J & MHi); Kelly Bryan salvaged a specimen Saw-whet at Davis Mts. SP 4 Jan; single Saw-whets were heard calling at Big Bend Ranch 27 Jan (BG) and at Amarillo 9 Feb (KS; † to T.B.R.C.); at a different Amarillo location, a 3rd specimen was obtained from the same yard 10 Feb where 2 others had been "collected" by a pet dog in the fall (ACa; * to T.C.W.C.); and finally, yet another was in Lubbock 14 Feb (KD, RKO; ph. to T.B.R.C.).

Hummingbirds Through Woodpeckers

A Green-breasted Mango was discovered in McAllen 1 Feb (*vide* BMC) and photographed 8 Feb (ph LBe, † RBe). Wintering Anna's Hummingbirds made appearances in Llano and Hays. A single report of Costa's Hummingbird, at Terlingua Ranch, Brewster 10 Dec was received (COK). An amazing 4 Calliope Hummingbirds were at feeders in the Austin area in Dec and Jan (m.ob.); a single Calliope was also at L. Jackson, Brazoria, 3–4 Jan (T & SCo), and another 2 wintered in El Paso (BZ). A Rufous Hummingbird lingered in Amarillo 13 Nov–4 Dec (TP), a new winter record. Curiously only a single unidentified wintering hummingbird was reported at Big Bend, and none lingered in the Davis Mts. (MF, KB). Hill Country Ringed Kingfishers included one in Austin 16 Dec–4 Jan. (SDa, m.ob.) and another on the Frio R., Uvalde in early Feb (OC). A seriously misplaced Ringed Kingfisher was at Imperial Res., Pecos 3 Feb (RKO, FR), a new county record. Of the invading Lewis's Woodpeckers, some seemed to linger, while others seemed to bounce around; Lewis's were reported at four Trans-Pecos sites, as well as Midland, Lubbock, Abilene, and Del Rio; the southernmost Lewis's at Choke Canyon, McMullen was around until at least 1 Jan (JJa). Nice winter finds were single Acorn Woodpeckers in Lubbock 16 Dec (RE) and in El Paso in January (JZ, RR, BZ). A Red-bellied Woodpecker in Dallam 25 Jan was a new coun-

ty record (BG, MI). A Red-naped Sapsucker was in Corpus Christi 9 Dec (GB), but of much greater interest was a Red-breasted Sapsucker seen by Kelly Bryan and a seminar group 3 Dec at Big Bend Ranch, Presidio; this is only the 2nd Texas report of the species. A wandering Downy Woodpecker approached the Rio Grande at Quemado, Maverick 15 Dec (JA).

Flycatchers Through Corvids

An Alder Flycatcher seen and heard on w. Galveston I. 4 Dec was likely the first winter record for the U.T.C. (DiP). The C.B.C.s produced a good handful of flycatcher reports on the U.T.C. with several *Empidonax*, as many as 13 Ash-throated Flycatchers at various areas, a Say's Phoebe, and a Great Kiskadee (at Attwater), along with small numbers of Couch's and Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Another far-flung Say's Phoebe was an extreme rarity in e. Texas in Harrison 22 Oct–29 Jan (ER, GLu et al.). Two Dusky-capped Flycatchers graced the L.R.G.V.: one at Bentsen was discovered 21 Dec and seen a few times subsequently; a bird at Sabal Palm 28 Dec+ (ph. BMC et al.). A Brown-crested Flycatcher in Brazoria 23 Feb was extralimital (C & OB). The 2 Great Kiskadees that showed up last Thanksgiving at Imperial Res. continued into early Feb (m.ob.). A Couch's Kingbird on the Austin C.B.C. 16 Dec was way inland (LB). A Cassin's Vireo was at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground 18 Dec–23 Feb (m.ob.), where it could be considered expected. Cassin's reported at other locations in s. and coastal Texas were greeted with much skepticism and head-scratching; more than a few observers are not comfortable with the current field marks, or, rather, with the curious easterly reports of this species based on sight records identified with the aid of the current suite of field guides. A smattering of Hutton's Vireo records in cen. Texas caused a debate whether these are winter wanderers or a sparse resident population: Singles were in two different locations on Balcones Canyonlands 14–16 Dec (in Burnet, BRe, CS) and 22 Feb (in Travis, BRe); another was in nw. San Antonio 4 Jan (JHy, BBa); and Lockwood found a Hutton's e. of the escarpment in Bastrop 25 Feb. Steller's and Western Scrub-Jays invaded El Paso. A great find was a Steller's Jay in Dalhart, Hartley 3 Feb (MCA, AF). Up to 3 Western Scrub-Jays were seen periodically all winter in Midland (m.ob.), an area where they are not resident A Mexican Jay discovered by Zimmer in El Paso 24 Jan was an astonishing first county record, the bird was seen the following day (ph BZ, MSc). Based on the pale blue color of the head and upperparts, its yellowish gape mark, and

dull gray throat, it is believed that this bird is of the *arizonae* race, a first for Texas. A flock of up to 30 Pinyon Jays in Midland for the season was a clear indication of the lingering invasion (D & JMe); others were in El Paso, Fort Davis, and Alpine. A single Pinyon was photographed near Canyon, *Randall*, 23 Dec–4 Jan (EK, m ob.). New county records of Common Raven were obtained in *Briscoe* 24 Jan (BBeh, SDa) and *Ochiltree* 4 Feb (MCA, AF).

Chickadees Through Warblers

A real delight were Mountain Chickadees found at 5 locations in the Panhandle (m.ob.). Even more surprising was the number of Juniper Titmice—first records for the Panhandle: up to 6 were in a Dalhart neighborhood 3 Dec–19 Feb (CS et al.), up to 4 were in Texline 8 Dec–25 Jan (CS, BG, MI), and up to 5 were at various Amarillo locations from mid-Nov+ (DMc, CSa, BPI, m.ob.). Juniper Titmice were also unexpected at El Paso, Hueco Tanks, Fort Davis, and in the nearby Davis Mts. (m.ob.). Pygmy Nuthatches joined the chickadees and titmice in the Panhandle: 3–7 were in Dalhart 5 Dec–19 Feb (KS et al.). Although not a conspicuous member of the fall invasion, single Western Bluebirds nonetheless made it to *Limestone* 6 Feb (TJC) and *Bastrop* 11 Feb (BFR). The push of Mountain Bluebirds sank deep into s. Texas: most notably up to 500 were near Quemado, *Maverick* 15 Dec (JA) and a single bird was at Rockport on the Central Coast 13 Feb (MM). Mountain Bluebirds were tolerably numerous in the Hill Country, and a few made it as far e. as *Bastrop* (BFR, TF). There were scattered reports in the L.R.G.V. of Clay-colored Robin; most prominently, a Clay-colored approached the coast at Laguna Atascosa 10 Feb (TBr). A beautiful **Rufous-backed Robin** was photographed at Big Bend's Rio Grande Villiage 30 Dec (ph. J & KR), a first winter record for the park and about the 10th Texas record. Single Varied Thrushes were reported at Davis Mts. SP 1 Dec (KB, DO, GW) and at Marathon, *Brewster* 5 Dec (*vide* DO). Sprague's Pipits were more numerous wintering in the cen. prairie areas (e.g. *Williamson*, *Brazos*, *Burleson*), as well as grasslands in far w. Texas; a single Sprague's at White River L., *Crosby* 30 Dec was well to the north (AF). A Bohemian Waxwing was reported in *Crosby* in late Dec by two observers, but we have not seen details on it.

At least 15 species of warblers lingered late enough to be tallied on the C.B.C.s on the UTC. It was curious to find Northern Parulas at Big Bend 29 Dec (NBI) and at Midland 19 Jan (RMS, FR). An imm. Cape May Warbler lingered at Odem, *San Patricio* for the Corpus

Christi C.B.C. on 16 Dec (WS). Pine Warblers wintered w. to *Brewster*, *Midland*, and *Uvalde* and n. to Lubbock and Plainview in the Panhandle. A Pine Warbler in El Paso 9 Dec was a first county record (SalH, JPa). A Palm Warbler was late in Austin 8–10 Dec (RF, JHan), and another at Tornillo Res. in far w. Texas 10 Jan (ph. BZ) was resighted nearly a month later (RR). Another nice winter resident was a male Hooded Warbler at Big Bend's Rio Grande Nature Trail 21 Dec–21 Jan (m.ob.); a female Hooded was in El Paso for a week starting 15 Jan (JPa, ph. BZ). A Wilson's Warbler (or 2) also in El Paso in Jan was almost as rare (BZ).

Tanagers Through Finches

Lingering with the late warblers, at least 8 Summer Tanagers remained on the UTC until the C.B.C. season and some stayed into Feb. In a poor sparrow year in w. Texas, nice finds included single Harris's Sparrows 5 Jan in *Hudspeth* (JZ, MSc) and in *Presidio* 10 Feb (KB). A Harris's Sparrow was s. of its regular range on S. Padre I., *Cameron* 6 Dec (BMu). Perhaps reflecting brutal winter conditions farther to the n., single American Tree Sparrows were found on the San Antonio C.B.C. 17 Dec (WS, J & BR; the same bird or another re-found on 24 Dec, DGo), on the Freeport C.B.C. the same day (and 18 Dec; WP, GCa), and at Granger L., *Williamson* 31 Dec (ByS). A Le Conte's Sparrow was well to the n. at Wolf Creek Park, *Ochiltree* 24 Jan (MCA, AF). Continuing a remarkable trend from the fall, several Gray-headed Juncos appeared in cen. and e. Texas: one was in *Bastrop* 11–12 Dec (LS); up to 3 were in *Smith* 16 Dec+ (JMc); one was in Atlanta, *Cass* 11–12 Jan (ph. BN, SL); and a final one was in *Nacogdoches* in mid-Jan (MHW, DW). Zimmer's **White-winged Junco** in El Paso from late Nov was also seen 1 Dec.; an amazing 3 White-winged Juncos were documented in the Panhandle: Amarillo, *Potter* 5 Jan (†KS); and at Palo Duro L., *Hansford*, and Wolf Creek Park, *Ochiltree*, both 24 Jan (ph. BG, MI). Longspurs, while sparse in the Panhandle, apparently moved farther s. and e.; 3000+ Laplands were in *Williamson* 30 Dec (TF) and up to 6000 were in *Guadalupe* e. of New Braunfels 26 Dec (BD). On Christmas Day, Brush Freeman also had 120 Smith's Longspurs in the latter area, numbers unprecedented for cen. Texas. A Black-headed Grosbeak showed up at a feeder at L. Tanglewood, *Randall* 27 Dec after a heavy snow storm (S & TLJ), a first winter record for the Panhandle. Who could explain 2 Lazuli Buntings at L. Buchanan in the Hill Country 2 Jan (DY)? Along with a few scattered flocks of Indigo Buntings, 2 Painted Buntings were

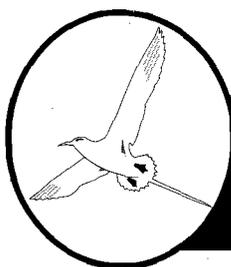
found in *Brazoria* during Feb (IH, CRi et al.); single Painteds were also at feeders in *Brazos* in late Jan (*vide* MMn). There was a scattering of Rusty Blackbirds, more than normal, in cen. and e. Texas, with birds dispersed as far w. as Lubbock and *Hansford* and a truly lost bird at McNary, *Hudspeth* 17 Dec (JPa et al.). It was a fairly good season for Purple Finches in e., n., and cen. Texas; scattered reports deep in e. Texas piqued observers' interest; the species had not been seen for years here. Heindel had a Purple Finch in San Antonio 6 Dec, and several birds were seen in Midland and Lubbock late Dec–Feb (m.ob.). Cassin's Finches were also very notable at several Trans-Pecos locations, at up to 5 Panhandle and High Plains sites, in Midland, and (briefly) at Kerrville. Along with reports in various Trans-Pecos locales and four Panhandle counties, Red Crossbills were seen in Abilene 29 Jan (TxB), and in *Johnson* in early Feb (CE); up to 5 Red Crossbills were seen and/or heard on upper L. Sam Rayburn, *Angelina*, 12–30 Jan (NBI et al.). There was an intriguing report of 2 Common Redpolls that spent a few hours at a feeder in Atlanta, *Cass* 8 Jan (BN, SL), but unfortunately no photos were obtained of this great rarity. In parts of e. and c. Texas, this was the best winter for Pine Siskins in at least five years. What a male Lesser Goldfinch was doing at Buffalo L., *Randall* 23 Dec (KS et al.) is uncertain.

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