

Townsend's Warblers this season, all but one from its Panhandle, the last in *Grant* 2 Sep (MB). Only one Townsend's was reported from Kansas, that in *Scott* 9 Sep (TS, SSh), with one 6 Sep in *Cimarron*, OK (JAG), and 2 there 20 Sep (MK, GK, C&SR). Among early arrivals were an Orange-crowned Warbler at *Oliver* 15 Aug (SJD) and a Canada Warbler 11 Aug in *Douglas*, KS (MM, GP). Lingered was a Northern Parula 14 Oct in *McCurtain*, OK (DA, DR, BH).

Few Brewer's Sparrows are noted during fall; this year's lot included singles in *Cimarron*, OK 21 Aug (JWA, JL, JS) and *Morton*, KS 2 Sep (SS, TC et al.). Quite tardy was a Vesper Sparrow in *Knox*, NE 28 Nov-3 Dec (MB). More frequently observed in recent years are Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows. About 8 were reported from e. Nebraska, all from 30 Sep-14 Oct (*fide* WRS), with two reports of 3 birds from Kansas 13-14 Oct (*fide* LM). Nine Sharp-taileds were flushed at Red Slough 10 Oct (DA).

An ad. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in *Finney*, KS 23-25 Nov (ES), was geographically and temporally out of place. Perhaps making a pattern of sorts were 4 late-ish Lazuli Buntings in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 22 Sep (AK), *Morton*, KS 22 Sep (SS, MRa), *Cimarron*, OK 24 Sep (JAG, JWA, DWg), and *Tulsa* 29 Sep (BC, TM). Also tardy was an Indigo Bunting in *Dixon*, NE 30 Oct (JJ), the 2nd latest ever for the state. A Lesser Goldfinch in *Morton*, KS 2 Sep (SS et al.) was a little n. of most. The only Common Redpoll noted was in *Nebraska City* 23 Nov (LF, CF).

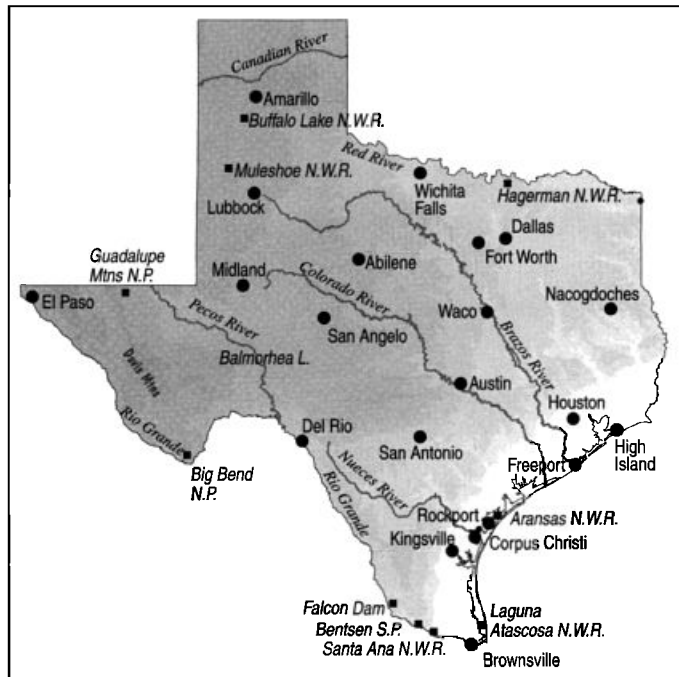
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This fall was characterized by above-average rainfall in the eastern half of the state while the drought remained unabated in the west. Pacific fronts repeatedly crossed the state, producing heavy rainfall when they interacted with moisture from the Gulf. At Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport, the rainfall total for the fall alone was over 63 cm. This was more than 25 cm above average. As a result, temperatures in the east were moderate, while in the west they were above normal. Hardest hit by the drought was El Paso, where the annual rainfall barely exceeded 10 cm, less than half the average.

In general, most observers described the fall migration as lackluster. In many areas of the state, the lack of summer rains left poor food crops and while many wintering species arrived on time, they seemed to disappear by

fall's end. Passage of Pacific fronts early in the season resulted in some record-early dates for a few species that were stopped on their way southward. Irrupective species were hard to come by throughout the state, and there was no repeat of last autumn's invasion of montane species in the west.

Abbreviations: T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast). The following are shortened names for the respective local, county, state, or national parks and wildlife refuges, etc.: Alazan Bayou, Anahuac, Balcones Canyonlands, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Brazoria, Buffalo Lake, Matagorda Island, Packery Channel, Palo Duro Canyon, Quintana, Sabine Woods, Santa Ana, Sea Rim, Trinity River.

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL

A Pacific Loon was at Greenfield City L., *Hunt*, providing a first county record (MWh, KWh). Up to 3 Least Grebes were on the Katy Prairie, *Waller* 2 Sep, providing a rare record for the U.T.C. (BH). *Aechmophorus* grebes continue to increase in numbers, particularly in the w. Trans-Pecos. Clark's Grebes nested in unprecedented numbers at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, with up to eight pairs with young 29 Oct among up to 70 other individuals (BZ, JPa, JZ). Paton counted up to 142 on reservoirs in *El Paso* and *Hudspeth* 11 Nov, including up to 20 juv. Clark's.

Sixty+ Cory's Shearwaters off Port Aransas, *Aransas* 21 Oct was an unusually large number (SWE). American White Pelicans are regular migrants through the w. half of the state, but counts of 60 at Midland and over 300 at Buffalo L., *Randall* in Oct were remarkable. Brown Pelicans have been found in the Trans-Pecos with increasing frequency in the fall. This season, singles were at Tornillo Res., *El Paso* 16 Aug, Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 4 Sep, and McNary Res., *El Paso* 8 Sep. Wandering Brown Pelicans were also present at L. Worth, *Tarrant* and L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 5 Nov-2 Dec. Magnificent Frigatebirds lingered until 15 Nov at Galveston, providing only the 3rd Nov record for the Region (RWE).

Bitterns are rarely reported from the w. half of the state, but this fall an American Bittern was at Balmorhea L. 25 Aug (RK) and single Least were at Ralls, *Crosby* 2 Sep (RK), Big Bend 22 Sep (MF), Lubbock 21 Oct (AF) and Balmorhea L. 12 Oct (DHe). A gathering of 37 Great Egrets in *Crosby* 2 Sep was an amazing count for the High Plains (JCr et al). The Little Blue Heron first reported in Jul from *El Paso* remained until 22 Aug (BZ, JSp). Tricolored Heron post-breeding dispersal was particular-

ly strong this fall in the e. half of the state. Unprecedented for the Edwards Plateau was a count of 6 Tricolored Herons at L. Buchanan, *Burnet* 3 Aug (TFe). This species is an almost regular fall visitor to the Trans-Pecos, and this year singles were at Balmorhea L. 12-25 Aug (MAd, RR) and Rio Grande Village 10 Sep-1 Oct (LK et al.). Reddish Egret was documented from the Edwards Plateau for the first time this fall, with singles at Kerrville 23 Aug (EB, ph.) and Canyon L., *Comal* 6 Sep (BN). Reddish Egrets continue to be found in the Trans-Pecos with surprising frequency; this season's individuals include continuing birds at Balmorhea L., El Paso, and Imperial Res., *Pecos*, and another was at Fort Stockton, *Pecos* 17 Aug (MAd). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported from scattered locations in the Trans-Pecos, with one at Rio Grande Village 2 Aug (RE), 2 at Fort Hancock 2 Sep (BZ), and 2 at Balmorhea L. 23 Sep (MAd). An imm. Roseate Spoonbill at McNary Res. 31 Aug-5 Oct was an extraordinary record for the El Paso area.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Six Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Bastrop on 12 Aug (BFR) was a large number for the Austin area. Extremely early were 8 Canada Geese in *Angelina* 27 Aug (GG); the possibility of these being feral cannot be ruled out. A female Gadwall with young was discovered at Lubbock on 12 Aug (AF), providing a very rare breeding record for the South Plains. A **Harlequin Duck** was spotted flying with a group of Lesser Scaup at L. Worth 23 Nov († ph., MR); if accepted it would be the 3rd for Texas. Surf Scoters are almost annual in the Trans-Pecos between late Oct and early Nov; this fall found up to 3 at Tornillo Res. 26-29 Oct (JZ, MS, BZ) and one at McNary Res. 4-14 Nov. Long-tailed Ducks are annual but always noteworthy in Texas; singles were at S. Padre 1 Nov (WC) and Aransas 30 Nov (RWE). Hooded Mergansers appeared in Texas on record early dates, including singles at Greenbelt L., *Donley* 8 Aug (BiM, JHu) and Balmorhea L. (RK) and Buffalo L. (EK), both 25 Aug. Providing a first summer/early fall record for the Nacogdoches area were 2 hens 10-25 Aug (DWO et al.). An injured Common Merganser lingered through the summer and fall at Tornillo Res.

A count of 74 Swallow-tailed Kites was recorded at the Smith Pt. Hawk Watch during the fall, well above the expected number. A White-tailed Kite discovered at Acton, *Dickens* 2 Sep (RK et al.) provided a first record for the South Plains; another rare w. record was of one at Midland 1 Aug (FR). A fall roost of 25 White-tailed Kites near Orange Grove, *Jim*



This female Acorn Woodpecker in McAllen, Texas 6-10 November 2001 provided an unexpected first record for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The closest populations of this montane species are in the Sierra Pichacos in northeastern Mexico, about 160 km away. *Photograph by Steve Bentsen.*

Wells (BCr) was farther n. than expected, but a roost of over 150 near McAllen, *Hidalgo* was truly spectacular (LM). Two very early Bald Eagles were found in *Bailey* 25 Aug (RSm). A Harris's Hawk at Canyon, *Randall* 5-6 Oct (KW et al.) provided a rare Panhandle record. Equally unexpected were single Harris's at Smith Pt. 17 Sep and 7 Nov. Farther w. than normal were Red-shouldered Hawks at Midland 24 Aug (RMS) and Lubbock 1-19 Sep (RK et al.). A record total of 103,603 Broad-winged Hawks was recorded on the Smith Pt Hawk Watch, while on the other end of the state one was at Big Bend on 19 Aug (MF) and 3 in El Paso 19-27 Sep (JPa, JZ, MS, BZ). Broad-winged Hawks were seen in above-average numbers on the High Plains, with a high count of 4 at Lubbock 29 Sep (AF). Falling into an established pattern of fall occurrences e. of the breeding range, a Zone-tailed Hawk was at Mitchell L. 30 Oct (*vide* GSc). Extremely rare in El Paso, Rough-legged Hawks were seen 27 Nov (BZ) and 29-30 Nov (JZ, MS). An ad Golden Eagle was an unexpected find at

Brazoria N.W.R. 6 Oct (DJa). Sandifer reported a high count of 27 Peregrine Falcons along a 96-km stretch of North Padre Island 10 Oct. Prairie Falcons are rare on the coastal prairies; this season one was at the Katy Prairie, *Waller* 18 Oct-30 Nov (JHi, BDe) and another in *Kenedy* during early Nov (OC).

PHEASANTS THROUGH TERNS

An unusual find was a Ring-necked Pheasant at Guadalupe Mts. on 20 Oct (JWo). A Yellow Rail in Lubbock on 21 Oct (AF) provided a very rare record for the South Plains. Unexpected was a Purple Gallinule at Midland on 6 Oct (D&JM), while another individual lingered at San Bernard, *Brazoria* until 30 Nov (RWe) East of the normal migration corridor were 7 Whooping Cranes at Katy Prairie 24 Oct (JMu).

A Snowy Plover at L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine* 28 Aug (DWo) provided only the 2nd area record. A Semipalmated Plover at Buffalo L. 10 Nov provided the latest date for the Panhandle by 17 days (EK). With increasing attention to the plight of Mountain Plovers, all sightings are noteworthy. The first of the fall was reported from the Granger area, *Williamson* 13 Oct, where the high count of 116 individuals was made 4 Nov (TFe). A Black-necked Stilt with young at Cooper L. 16 Aug (MWh), where they likely nested, provided an unusual n.-cen. Texas record. Although this species is a common migrant through the state, a group of 200+ Upland Sandpipers on the ground near Granger, *Williamson* 12 Aug was surprising (TFe). Another unexpected concentration was 1000 Long-billed Curlews near Tulia, *Swisher* 4 Oct (JRe). Any fall Hudsonian Godwit in Texas is noteworthy; one initially discovered during the summer at Brazoria N.W.R. lingered until 4 Aug (RWe). Sanderlings were reported in higher-than-normal numbers in the Trans-Pecos and High Plains, with a high count of 5 at Imperial Res. 19 Oct (EC). An early Common Snipe was found at Aransas 17 Aug (RWe).

Pomarine Jaegers are regular in fall and winter in the Gulf but are rarely found along the shore, one was at Port Aransas 13 Oct (MC, WS) Inland Parasitic Jaegers were found at Balmorhea L. 6 Sep (BPi) and L. Tawakoni 4-5 Nov (MWh). More spectacular was a Long-tailed Jaeger at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* 31 Oct-5 Nov (†, ph., MR et al.). Laughing Gulls have become almost annual in the Trans-Pecos, and this fall a juv. was at McNary 23 Aug-8 Sep (JZ, Mc, BZ) and was joined by another in first-winter plumage 31 Aug-1 Oct (BZ). An ad. Little Gull was at L. Worth on 18-19 Nov († JMc, CA). A dark-mantled gull, possibly a Kelp

Gull, was photographed at South Padre I., *Cameron* 29 Sep (SCo); however, the bird was too distant for positive identification. Sabine's Gulls are rare but regular fall migrants through the state, and this year saw a higher-than-average number of sightings: up to 3, including one ad., were at McNary Res. 2-8 Sep (BZ et al.); and singles were seen at L. Palestine, *Smith* 4-8 Sep (RG), L. Tawakoni 7 Sep (MWh), Lubbock 8 Sep (AF), Fort Bliss on 10 Sep (*U.T.E.P.), L. Worth 28 Sep-4 Oct (MR et al.), and near Aransas Pass, *Aransas*, an ad. 22 Oct (ML).

Rare for the Trans-Pecos was a Caspian Tern at McNary Res. 23 Aug (BZ, JZ, MS). Two **Elegant Terns** were at East Beach, *Galveston* 4-18 (DSi, †, ph., m. ob.), providing only the 3rd record for the state. Common Terns were found in far above-normal numbers in the w. Trans-Pecos, where a total of 9 was recorded 13 Sep-22 Oct (m. ob.). An **Arctic Tern** was carefully studied at L. Worth 18 Oct († ph., MR). There are currently only three documented records for the state. A very large concentration of 183 Black Terns was at Fort Hancock, *Hudspeth* 10 Aug (BZ), and smaller groups were found in other locations in *Hudspeth* and *El Paso* on the same day (JZ, MS).

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS

Eurasian Collared-Dove populations along the upper and central coasts continue to grow, as indicated by a count of 80+ from Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 7 Oct (BFr). This species was recorded for the first time in *Armstrong* and *Wheeler* in the Panhandle. A White-winged Dove was at Ryan L., *Angelina* 19 Aug (DWo, et al.), providing only the 2nd county record. A subad. Yellow-headed Parrot in Brownsville, *Cameron* 21-22 Sep (JAr) could conceivably have been a vagrant from the native population found 240 km to the s. in Tamaulipas, Mexico. Observers should be very careful to distinguish young Yellow-headed from the similar young Yellow-crowned Parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala*), an exotic species recorded in Brownsville in Apr 2001 (CDB et al.).

A Black-billed Cuckoo in Lubbock on 25 Aug (AF) was farther w. than expected. A Flammulated Owl was discovered on an oil rig off *Brazoria* 25 Oct (WB, ph.) providing the 4th U.T.C. record. More expected was one in Lubbock 11 Oct (CMi)—in recent years it has become clear that this is within the normal migration path of this species. An Eastern Screech-Owl was discovered perched in Paton's yard 26 Oct (ph.), a first *El Paso* record. Spotted Owls are very rare and local residents in the Davis and Guadalupe Mts. This fall, one was present in a known roost site in the Davis

Mts. 7 Sep (GL et al.), and another was flushed in Dead Bear Canyon, G.M.N.P. 9 Oct (JM₁) A lingering Lesser Nighthawk was seen near Dryden, *Terrell* 22 Nov (CMe, JeR). This species is a rare winter resident to the s. in the w. South Texas Brush Country.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Chaetura swifts that were thought to be Vaux's were reported from Smith Pt. 4 Oct and L. Worth 8 Oct. This species remains undocumented in the state and obtaining such documentation will be a daunting task. There were two documented records of **Green-breasted Mango** this season. An imm or female was in Pharr, *Hidalgo* 20 Jul-mid-Aug (G&PH, ph), and a male nearing ad. plumage was at McAllen 4-18 Oct (†, ph., m. ob.). Two Broad-billed Hummingbirds were in El Paso: a male 20 Oct-30 Nov+ (JKi, †JZ, MS) and a female 28 Oct-30 Nov+ (†BZ et al.). Other Broad-billed were found in McAllen from 3-18 Oct († m. ob.) and Houston 3-30 Nov+ (†MMA, JH₁ et al.). A **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** graced Zimmer's yard 6-30 Nov+ († ph., BZ et al) providing the 6th record for the state A remarkably late ad. male Magnificent Hummingbird was seen during a snow storm in the Davis Mts. 28 Nov (M&ME). Anna's Hummingbirds are rarely reported from the High Plains, but 4 were found this season one in *Bailey* in mid-Aug, one in Lubbock 19 Aug (AF), another there from 1-3 & 15 Nov (RE), and 2 in Amarillo 24 Oct-30 Nov+ (RSc, BP₁ et al., ph.). The **Costa's Hummingbird** first found on 10 Jun near Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* lingered until 1 Sep († ph. V&NR et al.). Calliope Hummingbirds found e. of the normal migration route were in Cleburne, *Johnson* late Aug-early Sep, *Bastrop* 15 Sep (BFr), High Island, *Galveston* 24 Sep (BDi), Port O'Connor 7 Oct (BFr), and Beaumont, *Jefferson* 5 Nov (JWh et al.). Another Calliope lingered in Amarillo until 22 Nov (RSc).

The Merritts found 2 wandering woodpeckers in Midland, one from the e. and one from the w.—a Red-headed 4 Sep and an Acorn 20 Sep. Bentsen and Moore were stunned by the sight of an Acorn Woodpecker in McAllen 6-10 Nov. Williamson's Sapsuckers were found in two lowland locations in the w. Trans-Pecos one at El Paso 20 Sep and another in Pinto Canyon, *Presidio* 2 Oct (RBe).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTCRACKER

An *Empidonax* identified as a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Bear Creek Park, *Harris* 29 Nov (JHi, JRa). An Acadian Flycatcher at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 1 Oct (BZ) provided a first county and a very rare w. Trans-Pecos

record Gray and "Western" Flycatchers were found much farther e. than is normally expected. Grays were at Possum Kingdom L, *Young* 5 Aug (KN, ph.) and on Padre I., *Nueces* 29 Aug (MCo, ph.). The "Westerns" were at Weslaco, *Hidalgo* 14-16 Sep (JAr, BMc) and West Galveston I. 22-24 Nov (DP, DPe). An ad. **Buff-breasted Flycatcher** in the Davis Mts. Preserve was observed feeding what appeared to be a fledgling Gray Flycatcher 19 & 26 Aug (KBr et al.) The Buff-breasted was last seen 9 Sep (GL, BFr, PHo, ph.). A Black Phoebe was unexpected in *Bailey* 29 Aug (RSm). A Say's Phoebe wandered to the Pineywoods near Hallsville, *Harrison* 28-30 Sep and 2-10 Nov (JPi, DR, EdR, GLu). A Say's Phoebe was present at this location the previous winter. Vermilion Flycatchers also made an appearance in East Texas, with one at Alazan Bayou W.M.A., *Nacogdoches* 26 Aug (JF) and another at L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine* 24 Oct (DWO, JF). Another Vermilion at Muleshoe on 11 Aug (AF) was more within the normal wanderings of this species. In *El Paso*, this species is remarkably scarce, but this fall there were three different sightings 9 Aug-1 Oct. An Ash-throated Flycatcher in Chappell Hill, *Washington* 3 Nov (DVo) provided a first county record.

Great Kiskadees wandered n. of their normal range, with individuals reported at Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell* 7-10 Aug (GCr), Chappell Hill on 18-29 Aug (RSt et al.), and Castroville, *Medina* mid-Oct-30 Nov+ (*fide* GSc). A pair of Tropical Kingbirds successfully nested at Midland 10 Aug-15 Sep (RMS ph., audiotape, FR) This is the first successful nesting in Texas away from the Lower Rio Grande Valley or the Big Bend region. Reid found two unexpected species of kingbirds at L. Worth this season: a Couch's Kingbird 2 Sep († ph.) provided the first record for n.-cen. Texas and 2 Cassin's 3 Sep. A Thick-billed Kingbird was photographed near Buffalo L. 19 Aug (†, ph., BP, RSc) This Panhandle record would have been totally unexpected if not for the previous record from Palo Duro Canyon on 30 Oct 1998. Wandering Eastern Kingbirds made their way to the Trans-Pecos this fall, with singles at Fort Bliss 27-28 Aug (RR, BZ), Dugout Wells, Big Bend 3 Sep (JHa), and Rio Grande Village 9 Sep (LK et al). Some very large concentrations of migrating Eastern Kingbirds were noted in the e third of the state. The most noteworthy counts were at Nacogdoches, where a roost flight of 1020 was counted 29 Aug (DWO, JF) and 300+ were at a different roost 30 Aug (DWO) A **Gray Kingbird** was seen briefly at Quintana, *Brazoria* 10 Oct († RWE); if accepted, this would represent the 4th state record.

Surprisingly, only one Northern Shrike was

reported from the Panhandle this fall, on the early date of 29 Oct in *Donley* (KS). White-eyed Vireos wandered w. to Palo Duro Canyon 14 Sep (KS) and Midland 23 Oct (D&JM). A Bell's Vireo 2 Sep (ERa, DVo) provided a first county record for *Burleson* and a rare fall record for the Central Brazos Valley. A Plumbeous Vireo was studied at Rose Hill Cemetery in Corpus Christi 25 Nov (RoB). A Cassin's Vireo in *Bailey* 16 Sep (AF) provided a first county record and one of the few for the South Plains. Early Blue-headed Vireos were reported from Granger L., *Williamson* 29 Aug (BFr) and Galveston 10 Sep (AMu). Another early vireo was a Warbling near Yorktown, *Dewitt*, on 26 Aug (DMu). Philadelphia Vireos made rare appearances in the w. half of the state this fall, with singles at McClellan, *Gray* 2 Oct (KS) and at El Paso 8 Oct (JPa, BZ). Red-eyed Vireos also headed w. this fall, with individuals at Midland 7 Aug (RMS, FR), in *Hudspeth* 3 Sep (RR), and Fort Bliss 24 Sep (BZ). A well-described Yellow-green Vireo was reported from *Duval* 22 Sep (JHai).

A very good find was a Steller's Jay at Amarillo, *Potter* 16 Nov (JPr). Blue Jays continued to be found in Edinburg, *Hidalgo*, where the species has taken up residence in recent years. More unusual was a small influx into far w. Texas, where 2 were in El Paso 22 Sep-30 Nov+ (JK et al.) and one at another El Paso location 17 Oct (BZ). The only montane invaders this fall were small numbers Western Scrub-Jays into *El Paso* at scattered locales, the first spotted 14 Sep at Fort Bliss (BZ). Small numbers of Pinyon Jays were found in the Davis Mts. 26 Aug-24 Oct (m. ob.). The only other report was a small group at Guadalupe Mts. N.P. 9 Oct (RD). A **Clark's Nutcracker** was reported from Wild Rose Pass, *Jeff Davis* 6 Sep (†BPI), details to be reviewed by the T.B.R.C.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A large Purple Martin roost estimated to have 150,000 individuals was in Tyler, *Smith* 24 Aug (JaS). Residents complained about the noise and mess, and local officials used noise cannons to disperse the roost. Far w. of the normal migration range, a Purple Martin near McNary, *Hudspeth* 22 Sep (JPa) provided a 3rd country record. Migrating Purple Martins noted in *Burleson* on 6 Oct were late. A group of 7 Violet-green Swallows was at Lubbock on 7 Sep (AF) constituted an unusually large number for the High Plains. Cave Swallows provided first county records for *Tarrant* at L. Worth 28 Aug (MR) and *Washington* near Chappell Hill 31 Aug-11 Oct (DVo).

A very early Brown Creeper was at College

Station, *Brazos* 30 Sep (ERa). Carolina Wrens continued along Terneros Cr. in Big Bend Ranch S.P., *Presidio* through the fall. Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in greater-than-normal numbers in late Oct and early Nov but seemed to almost disappear by late Nov. A very late Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Port Aransas 7 Nov (MCo); another at Sundown, *Hockley* 6 Oct (AF) was equally unexpected. A Varied Thrush was well studied at Balmorhea S P 24-27 Oct (†, ph., TJo, MAD). A Gray Catbird was at Fort Bliss 6-9 Oct (JPa, BZ), providing an unusual *El Paso* record. The **Blue Mockingbird** reappeared at Weslaco after an apparent lengthy absence (†JBU). Despite the rarity of this species, details of its occurrence are rarely submitted, perhaps because some observers assume the bird to be an escapee. Another early arrival was an American Pipit near Bastrop in 24 Aug (BFr). For the 3rd consecutive fall season, Sprague's Pipits were located in *Hudspeth* near Fort Hancock 16 Oct-30 Nov+ (BZ et al.).

The first Blue-winged Warblers were noted at High I. and Sabine Woods 2 Aug (DVe) A Golden-winged Warbler in Lubbock 29 Sep (AF) provided one of the few South Plains reports. Lawrence's Warblers are rarely reported in the fall, but this year 2 were at High I 24 Sep (WBU). A Tennessee Warbler in Lubbock 29 Sep (AF) was both far w. and late. Lucy's Warblers are rarely found away from breeding areas, even in the Trans-Pecos. This fall, one was in El Paso 18 & 25 Aug (RR, JPa), and another was near McNary, *Hudspeth* 8 Sep (JZ, MS). Northern Parulas made a strong appearance in El Paso well w. of their normal haunts this fall: singles on 8 & 9 Oct and 20-30 Nov (BZ, JPa), representing three individuals. The Tropical Parulas at Davis Mts. S.P. from the summer remained until 4 Sep. Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warblers were noted in the w Trans-Pecos this fall, with single Chestnut-sideds in El Paso 17 & 23 Oct (BZ et al.) and a Magnolia at Big Bend Ranch 3 Oct (RBe). Black-throated Blue Warblers in the w. half of the state are always noteworthy. This fall, there were singles in Lubbock 8 Sep (AF), Fort Bliss 1 Oct (BZ, JZ, MS), Big Bend 8 Oct (PK) and 20 Oct at Tornillo, *Hudspeth* (JPa, MS) Following a summer report from Boot Springs, a Golden-cheeked Warbler was reported from Big Bend's South Rim Trail 3 Aug (DJo) A Townsend's Warbler in Midland 27 Aug (FR) made an interesting record. An imm. female Hermit Warbler at Quintana 31 Aug (RWE et al.) provided the U.T.C. with a first fall record. With only two previous records, a Blackburnian Warbler at Fort Bliss, *El Paso* 17 Oct (BZ) was a nice find. Grace's Warblers are

very rarely seen during migration, but this season 3 were found in *Hudspeth* and *El Paso* 11-25 Aug (BZ, JPa, RR). Unexpected was a Pine Warbler in Lubbock 23 Sep (AF). Another surprise for El Paso observers was a Prairie Warbler at Fort Bliss 23 & 26 Aug (JZ, MS), a first county record. Another westward-wandering Prairie Warbler was at Lubbock 12 Aug (E&TM). Palm Warblers in El Paso 23 Sep (JSp) and McNary 4-5 Oct (BZ et al.) provided rare fall records. Blackpoll Warblers are very rare in Texas during the fall. This season 2 were reported, in Lubbock 10 Sep (RK) and Quintana 1 Oct (CBr).

An American Redstart lingered until 17 Nov in *Austin* (B&SB). Prothonotary Warblers were found farther w. than usual, with singles at McNary 16 & 31 Aug (BZ, ph.). There was also a Prothonotary in Lubbock 3 Sep (AF). A singing Swainson's Warbler at Richland Creek W M A., *Freestone* 9 Sep (PB, RG) was about a month later than the previous late record. Paton discovered a Louisiana Waterthrush at Fort Bliss on 15-16 Sep, providing the first record for *El Paso* since 1994. A Kentucky Warbler in Amarillo, *Randall* 30 Sep (RSc) was a nice find. A Connecticut Warbler was well described from Lubbock 6-7 Oct (†AF); if accepted by the T.B.R.C. it would represent the 8th record for the state. A Mourning Warbler also made an appearance in Lubbock on 20 Oct (AF). A Canada Warbler at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 2 Aug (DVe) was extraordinarily early. Two Canada Warblers were found in the Trans-Pecos at Fort Bliss 24 Sep (BZ) and in the Sierra Vieja, *Presidio* 5 Sep (BFR, PHO et al.). Rare Red-faced Warblers were at Big Bend 3 Aug (†DJo) and Canyon Lake, *Comal* 15 Sep, far less expected (†BN, RSi). A migrant Painted Redstart was at Fort Bliss 16 Sep (JPa), but totally unexpected was one at Packery Channel, *Nueces* 2 Oct (TSc, MCo, ph.). Amazing was a concentration of 20-25 Yellow-breasted Chats around Granger L. 29 Aug (BFR).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A female Scarlet Tanager in El Paso 8-9 Oct (JPa et al., ph.) provided a first county record. One of the great finds of the season was a male **Flame-colored Tanager** in the Davis Mts. 1-5 Oct (†ph., M&ME et al.), a 3rd state record. A very early Chipping Sparrow was at Galveston 27 Aug (JSt). A Henslow's Sparrow was in *Grimes* 8 Nov (KK, DMA), providing a 2nd county record. Longspurs in general were in short supply across the state this season. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at High I. 2 Aug (DVe) was very early. Black-headed Grosbeaks are almost annual on the coast in the fall; this year, one was at Quintana 16 Oct (RWe). A Lazuli

Bunting wandered e. to Smith Pt. 7 Oct (WBu et al.). A Varied Bunting at McNary Res. 16 Aug (BZ) provided *Hudspeth* with its 2nd record. An amazing concentration of 2000 Dickcissels was near Granger L. 1 Sep (TFe). Two Bobolinks were impressive fall finds in *El Paso*: an ad. was at Fort Bliss 12 Sep (BZ, ph.), and an imm. was at the same location 27 Sep (BZ et al.). Another interesting Bobolink record was provided by 2 in *Bexar* 25 Sep (*vide* GSc). Single Rusty Blackbirds were well w. in Amarillo 18 Oct (EK) and El Paso 17 Nov (JZ, MC). Early Brewer's Blackbirds were found near Hallsville, *Harrison* 30 Sep (GLu) and South Padre I. 7 Oct (JAR). A Bronzed Cowbird wandered n. to Lubbock on 5-12 Aug (AF, RK). Two Purple Finches at Kurth L., *Angelina* 30 Oct (GG) were early. This species has been very scarce in Texas in recent years. Four Red Crossbills appeared at Lake Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 7 Sep (MWh). One Red Crossbill was at Fort Bliss 18 Oct (BZ, JZ, MS)—a marked contrast to last fall, when the species was widespread. A single imm. Evening Grosbeak was found at L. Worth 21 Nov (MR).

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