

unfortunately escaping the observation of many a Kansas birder.

A juv. female Yellow-headed Blackbird lingered until 15 Dec in *Scotts Bluff*, NE (SJD, m. ob.), with a male noted in *Boone*, NE 4 Jan (WM). The 2-7 Brown-headed Cowbirds wintering in *Scotts Bluff*, NE (SJD, KL, m. ob.) provided the first Jan—Feb record for the Nebraska Panhandle. Three cowbirds in *Scotts Bluff* itself 7 Jan (KL, PD, DD, AD) were the 2nd record. Also indicative of mild winter was an imm. Baltimore Oriole that survived in Omaha until 11 Dec (*fide* WRS).

One of the surprises of the winter was an invasion of White-winged Crossbills into Nebraska and Kansas. In Nebraska, a rough tally indicates that about 75 birds were reported, most at feeders, the largest flocks being of 16 in Omaha (BP, LP, m. ob.) and of 12 in *Keyapaha* (CH). A scattering of White-wingeds was reported from Kansas, including *Barton* (MR, LH), *Douglas* (RB), *Pottawatomie* (DB, G&DS, m. ob.), *Hamilton* (SS, MO), *Leavenworth* (GP), *Finney* (TS, SSh), *Geary* (CO, JO), *Shawnee* (PW), and *Butler* (*fide* CO). One was also observed in *Payne*, OK 9 Jan (OT). Common Redpolls were reported from five Nebraska locations. A few wandered to Kansas, with 2 in *Riley* 15 Dec (DR), 2 at *Cheyenne Bottoms* 13 Dec (*fide* MR), and another in *Riley* 5-10 Feb (DBu, G&DS). Among few reports of Evening Grosbeaks for the past few years were meager singles in *Hamilton* and *Kearny*, KS, both 12 Jan (SS, MO).

Cited observers (area editors in boldface):

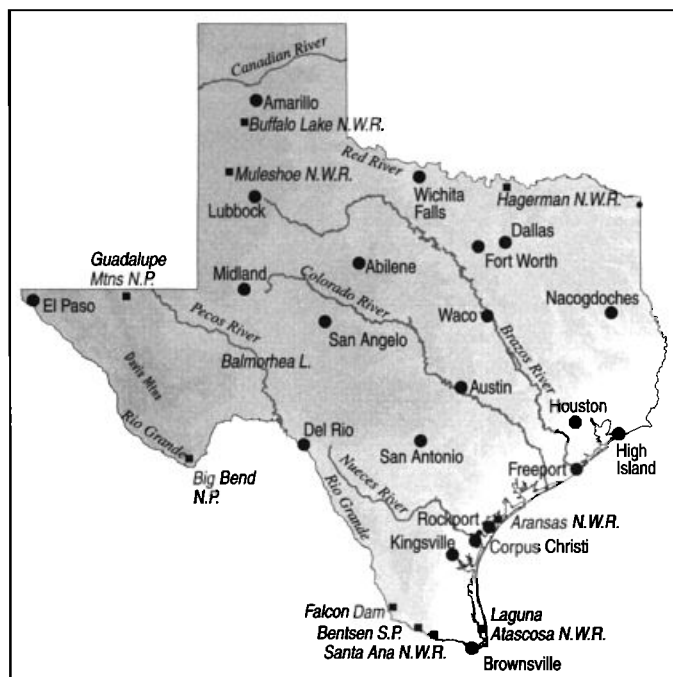
KANSAS: Henry Armknecht, Charles Anderson, Roger Boyd, Bill & Nancy Beard, Doris Burnett (DBu), Warren Buss, Mark Corder, Elaine Corder, Mike Cooper (MCo), Ted Cable, Jan Conrad, Don & Margaret Clemence, Dan Gish, Larry Hesed, Leon Hicks (LHi), Pete Janzen, Dan Larson, Mark Land, Mick McHugh, Gary Maxey, **Lloyd Moore**, Arpi Nyari, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Marie Osterbuh, Galen Pitman, Gerry Parkinson (GP), Sebastian Patti, Alexis Powell, Mark Radar, Mark Robbins (MRo), Dave Rintoul, Richard Rucker, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, Sara Shane (SSh), Gary & Donna Shavers (G&DS), Steve Teske, Phil Wedge, Paul Willis (PW), Beverly Yates. **NEBRASKA:** Laurel Badura, Ed Brogie, Mark Brogie, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Dean Drawbaugh, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Larry Einemann, Joe Fontaine, Joe Gubanyi, Robin Harding, Dave Heidt, Bill F Huser, Alice Kenitz, Tom E. Labeledz, Kathy Larson, Wayne Mollhoff, Valerie Naylor, Kay Niyo, Mark Orsag (MOr), Babs Padelford,

Loren Padelford, Rob Parsons, Brandon K. Percival, Larry Randolph, **W. Ross Silcock**, Dave Stage, Dave Swanson (DSw), Jerry Toll, Steve Van Sickle, Harley Winfrey, Sarah Winfrey, Chris Wood. **OKLAHOMA:** David Arbour, **James W. Arterburn**, Sandy Berger, John Couch (JCc), C. Dormer, Bonnie Gall,

Bob Germany (BGe), S. Greetham, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Berlin Heck, Jo Loyd, L. Mallonee (LMa), Kurt Meisenzahl, Donna and Justin Roach, Pat Seibert, Jerry Sisler, O. Thomas, S.&J. Vredenburg, M. Yancey.



Texas



Mark W. Lockwood

6710 Lancret Hill Drive
Austin, Texas 78745
(mwlockwood@juno.com)

Clifford E. Shackelford

714 Shiny Rock
Austin, Texas 78748
(clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us)

Willie Sekula

7063 County Road 228
Falls City, Texas 78113
(wsekula@the-cia.net)

Brush Freeman

120 North Redbud Trail
Elgin, Texas 78621
(brush@onr.com)

This winter saw almost normal rainfall in the eastern third of the state, while most of the remainder either lapsed back into drought conditions or simply saw a continuation of dry conditions. Much of the South Texas region had virtually no measurable rainfall during the period. The same was true in the western half of the state; for example, Big Bend National Park recorded the second driest winter since 1953. Drought conditions impacted wintering bird populations, as seed and insect food sources were minimal in much of the state. In areas with more normal precipitation, observers also noted that species and individual numbers were well below average. Although there were a few fairly strong northern fronts, producing freezing conditions well into South Texas, the winter could most easily be described as mild.

If overall bird populations seemed dismal, there was nonetheless an exceptional crop of statewide rarities. Premier among these was the state's first Gyrfalcon found in Lubbock. Other outstanding finds were the fourth and fifth documented Trumpeter Swans since the late 1800s. The northern half of the state was particularly blessed with these rarities, as a pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes was present in north-central Texas, and an astounding four White-winged Crossbills were documented around Amarillo. We are still unraveling the winter dynamics of hummingbird populations in the state. There appear to be increasing numbers of wintering hummingbirds away from the more expected haunts along the Coastal Prairies. This is particularly evident in El Paso County, where seven species of hummingbirds overwintered.

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, Buescher, Buffalo L., Matagorda Island, Packery Channel, Palo Duro Canyon, Quintana, Sabine Woods, Santa Ana, Sea Rim, Trinity River.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Pacific Loons were discovered at six locations across the eastern half of the state; noteworthy were singles farther w. at O. H. Ivie Res., *Coleman* 3 Feb (TMA) and Tornillo Res., *Hudspeth* 19 Dec (BZ). Common Loons wintered in larger than normal numbers in the Panhandle and South Plains (KS). An amazing concentration of 72 Common Loons was counted at L. Denison, *Grayson* 22 Feb (AW). A Red-necked Grebe was discovered at L. Tawakoni, *Rains/Van Zandt* 25 Dec (MWh). A pair of Western Grebes with young at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 7 Dec (BZ) provided the first nesting record for a pure Western pair in Texas. Western Grebes were found at eight scattered locations e. to *Tarrant* and *Fayette* this winter. A single Clark's Grebe on L. Tanglewood, *Randall* 15-26 Dec (KS, et al.) provided the first winter record for the Panhandle. Unexpected was a group of 30 American White Pelicans at Big Bend, *Brewster* 24 Feb (GLe). This species lingered at five Panhandle and South Plains locations this season, which is well above the norm. Three Brown Pelicans wandered into n.-cen. Texas this season, with singles at L. Tawakoni early Nov—2 Dec (MWh), L. Fork, *Wood* 2 Jan (BP), Ray Roberts L., *Cooke* 2 Jan (BP), and Village Creek Drying

Beds, *Tarrant* 6 Jan (MR). Another Brown Pelican on *Fayette Res.*, *Fayette* 5 Dec (BF) provided a first county record. A breeding colony containing 63 active Neotropic Cormorant nests was discovered on the King Ranch, *Kleberg* 3 Jan (TL). A Magnificent Frigatebird at Sea Rim, *Jefferson* 30 Dec (SR) provided a record late date for the U.T.C. A Reddish Egret at L. Fort Phantom, *Jones* 13 Jan (JaP) was a first Abilene-area record. Black-crowned Night-Herons, a rare winter resident in the Panhandle, were noted at L. Tanglewood on 15 Dec—27 Jan (JHam, BP, m. ob.) and Amarillo, *Potter* 16 Feb (BP). An imm. White Ibis at Tenaha, *Panola* 31 Dec (GLu, et al.) provided a rare winter record for the Pineywoods. Very rare in winter in Northeast Texas, 6 Roseate Spoonbills were at Camp Tyler, *Smith* 14 Dec (JCo) and 2 were present there on Christmas Day. Single Turkey Vultures were found at three *Brewster* locations on 14 Feb (DO, COK, GLe); this is about a month early for spring migrants.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are lingering into the winter with increasing regularity and in greater numbers; this season a total of 1187 was reported on U.T.C. Christmas counts. An astounding 75 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at L. Fork, *Wood* 10 Feb (MWh, DH). Single Greater White-fronted Geese were noted in El Paso during Dec and Big Bend on 7 Feb (GLe). The winter populations of Snow and Ross's Geese in the Panhandle and South Plains continue to increase, and very large concentrations of both species were noted at L. Rita Blanca, *Hartley* in particular. A **Trumpeter Swan** was at L. Marvin, *Hemphill* 8 Dec—16 Feb (†, ph., BP, KS, m. ob.), and another was at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria*, 2 Jan+ (DJ, †, ph., m. ob.). These represent the 4th and 5th documented records for the state. A Tundra Swan accompanied the Trumpeter at L. Marvin, and 2 possible Tundras were at Katy Prairie, *Waller* 9 Feb+ (PDH et al.). Drake Eurasian Wigeon were documented in nw. *Tarrant* 15-17 Dec (†, ph., DDC, MR, SJ et al.) and at Shipp L., *Bastrop* 17 Feb (†BF). Blue-winged Teal were unexpected visitors to Lubbock from 15 Dec—19 Jan (m. ob.) and El Paso 10 Jan (JSp). Three Cinnamon Teal at L. Rita Blanca, *Hartley* 26 Jan (EK) provided a rare winter Panhandle record. As expected, small numbers of Greater Scaup were reported across the state. Inland Long-tailed Ducks were at Delhi, *Caldwell* 14-17 Dec (BF) and Nacogdoches on 4 Jan (JF), the former providing a probable first county record. A pair of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** was discovered on Loy



This striking male Broad-billed Hummingbird, originally discovered on 18 October 2001, spent the winter in suburban Houston, Texas. This species occurs almost annually in the state, although most often in the western half.

Photograph by Michael Gray.

L., *Grayson* 5 Jan (†, ph., WM). The drake remained until 22 Feb (†, m. ob.), providing the 6th record for the state. An exceptional concentration of 500-800 Hooded Mergansers frequented a power plant lake in Greenville, *Hunt* in Dec and Jan (MWh, RB). Two female Common Mergansers at L. Coleman, *Coleman* were an interesting find (JaP, LP).

An active Bald Eagle nest was discovered in *Llano* (*vide* CN) during Feb, the only known nesting site on the Edwards Plateau and the only one w. of IH-35. An imm. Gray Hawk at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 22-27 Feb (DO, COK, MF) provided a rare winter Trans-Pecos record. An imm. Common Black-Hawk at Roma, *Starr* 2 Feb (BMc) was a nice find. Harris's Hawks are very local in the w. Trans-Pecos, so one at El Paso 10 Jan (JSp) was noteworthy. An imm. Swainson's Hawk was near Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley, *Hidalgo* 29 Dec (†, BMc, KE) providing a rare winter record for the state. Just n. of the regular range was an imm. White-tailed Hawk near La Grange, *Fayette* 5 Dec (BF). Zone-tailed Hawks were found in above-normal numbers in s.-cen. Texas. More noteworthy was one at Huntsville, *Walker* 16 Feb (OC), the first reported from the Pineywoods. Up to 4 Ferruginous Hawks were found on the U.T.C., which is above average. Another in *Henderson* 12 Jan—25 Feb (GLu, ERa, HB) was quite unexpected. The Prairie Falcon reported from *Waller* in the fall remained through the winter. Other noteworthy Prairie Falcons were in *Karnes* 9 Dec (WS, et al.) and *Navarro* 30 Dec (TP).

SA Certainly the event of the season was the discovery of an immature gray-morph **Gyr Falcon** in Lubbock on 21 Jan by Floyd. This not only represents the first record for the state, but this species had never been reported in the state, despite the erroneous mention of Texas in the *Bird of North America* species account. This individual faithfully roosted on a water tower in the south-central part of the city for the remainder of the season, much to the delight of birders from across the state and beyond. This Gyr may have been the southernmost ever recorded in North America.

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

The survey of the wintering population of Whooping Cranes resulted in a count of 174 individuals (TS). East of the normal wintering haunts was a pair that wintered at Indianola, *Calhoun* (m. ob.). An impressive count of 113 Snowy Plovers and 100 Piping Plovers was made on the San Bernard C.B.C. on 14 Dec. A Snowy Plover was photographed at L. Lewisville, *Denton* 13 Jan (KL), the 2nd winter record for the Region. A high count of 114 Mountain Plovers was made this season at the traditional wintering areas near Granger, *Williamson* 18 Dec and 3 Feb (TFe). Two lingering American Avocets were found near Taylor, *Williamson* 3 Dec (BF). A Spotted Sandpiper at Caprock Canyons, *Briscoe* 5 Jan (RK, AF, JR) provided a first winter record for the Panhandle. Only slightly more expected was another in Lubbock on 14 Feb (AF). A flock of 300 Long-billed Curlews along the Rio Grande in *Hudspeth* 10 Feb (JPa) was a surprising concentration for winter. Another interesting shorebird record from the Panhandle was of 2 Least Sandpipers at L. Marvin 8 Dec (EK et al.). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Gibbons Creek Res., *Grimes* 1 Dec (BFR, et al) provided a very rare winter record. Along the U.T.C., there were impressive counts of Stilt Sandpipers at various locations, suggesting that the species wintered in greater-than-normal numbers. American Woodcocks were present in much higher than normal numbers in ne. Texas (MWh).

A Parasitic Jaeger at Quintana, *Brazoria* 16 Dec (ERo) was the only report for the season. Two Laughing Gulls at Ellen Trout L., *Angelina* 16 Dec (GG, NB) made an unusual winter record for the Pineywoods. An ad. Mew Gull was with a large group of Ring-billed Gulls in w El Paso 20 Dec (†BZ). Up to 5 California Gulls were present in *El Paso* and *Hudspeth* during the season. This species has become an

annual winter visitor in the El Paso region. Farther e., California Gulls were noted in *McLennon* 15 Dec (JM, FB) and *Travis* 2 Feb (RF, JHan). A Thayer's Gull was reported at Lake o' the Pines, *Marion* 29-31 Dec (†BMe et al.), details of which will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C. A Lesser Black-backed Gull in *El Paso* 25 Dec (JO) provided a 2nd county record; this bird was also seen nearby in New Mexico. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be found in ever-increasing numbers along the Gulf Coast. Surprisingly, no Glaucous Gulls were reported during the period. A third-winter Great Black-backed Gull was at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 2-14 Dec (†PHo, BF). What is believed to be the same individual was found at Fulton Beach, *Aransas* 1 Jan+ (MM, †BP). Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted at Ray Roberts L., *Cooke* 26 Dec (BF) and Lake o' the Pines, *Marion* 12 Jan (HB). An Arctic Tern was reported from the Texas City Dike 18 Dec (†, ph., PDH, SP); if accepted it would represent the 5th state record. Eight Common Terns were at Padre Island National Seashore, *Kenedy* 8 Dec, a very late date (MC). There are very few winter records of Common Tern for the Coastal Bend or the lower coast.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Red-billed Pigeon in central *Hidalgo* in mid-Feb provided an unexpected winter record from the central L.R.G.V. (JA). White-winged Doves were present in numbers throughout the season in Wichita Falls (DM). Two Common Ground-Doves in w. *Milam* on 3 Dec (BF) were n. of normal range. The population of Green Parakeets in *Cameron* and *Hidalgo* is now estimated to exceed 2000 individuals (*vide* BMC). A roost of 11 Long-eared Owls at Muleshoe, *Bailey* made a nice find (LEAS). A Lesser Nighthawk was noted near Matagorda, *Matagorda* 17 Dec, an unusual coastal winter record. A male **Green-breasted Mango** was seen sporadically in McAllen, *Hidalgo* 2 Dec—19 Jan (†, ph., JA et al.). This may be the same individual that visited this feeder in Jan 2001. The 2 Broad-billed Hummingbirds reported from the fall remained through the season (†, ph., BZ). The Broad-billed present in Houston since 18 Oct remained until 18 Feb (†, ph., MMA et al.). The **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** present in El Paso last fall remained until 16 Feb (BZ). The longest previous stay in Texas by this species was only 12 days, and each of the other four records involved a stay of one or two days. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were unexpected finds in Big Bend 27 Dec and 22 Jan (*vide* MF) and Lubbock 24 Feb (AF, CC). Brower and Zalk made a concerted effort to band hum-

mingbirds on the U.T.C. this winter. Their work resulted in the capture of 3 Buff-bellied, 5 Ruby-throated, 32 Black-chinned, 2 Calliope, 27 Rufous, 2 Broad-tailed, and 3 **Allen's Hummingbirds** (†). Up to 2 Anna's Hummingbirds were in Amarillo, *Randall* 1 Dec—10 Jan (RSc), and 2 others were in Lubbock 15-19 Dec (AF et al.) providing rare mid-winter records from the Region. An imm male **Costa's Hummingbird** was at Matagorda 17-21 Dec (†, ph., CB, MG) providing the 3rd record from e. of the Pecos R. Inland winter Calliope Hummingbirds were noted at Austin, *Travis*, through the period (m. ob.) and in El Paso 29 Dec—4 Jan (*vide* JZ). Wintering Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were present through the period in El Paso and Midland, and another was in the Davis Mountains, *Jeff Davis* 1-17 Dec (M&ME). In addition to the 3 Allen's Hummingbirds banded by Brower and Zalk, another was banded in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 13 Feb (†GSw), and 4 others were rumored to have been banded in *Victoria*, but details were not provided. Another male *Selasphorus* that was thought to be an Allen's was present all winter at Russ Pitman Park, *Harris* (FC, ph. MG). Four Lewis's Woodpeckers were reported this season: 2 at Fredericksburg, *Gillespie*, 28 Dec+ (†, ph., m. ob.), one at Quemado, *Maverick* 27 Dec—13 Jan (†, ph., MC), and one near Abilene, *Taylor* 3 Feb+ (†, m. ob.). An amazing count of 52 Red-headed Woodpeckers was made on the Caddo L. count, *Harrison/Marion* 1 Dec (m. ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH JAYS

Following last summer's first Trans-Pecos record for Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, another was found in Pinto Canyon, *Presidio* 21 Jan (JJ, PM). The normal scattering of Least Flycatchers was found along the Coastal Prairies; more unusual was one at Gibbons Creek Res., *Grimes* 1 Dec (J&PS). A "Western" Flycatcher was well described in *Brazoria* near Brazos Bend 22 Dec (CB). A Say's Phoebe spend the 2nd consecutive winter at Cooper L., *Delta* (MWh). Two Black Phoebes wandered to *Midland* in early Dec (*vide* RMS), but more unexpected was one at S. Ceta Canyon, *Randall* 15-16 Dec (LS, RSc et al.). Eastern Phoebes also made an appearance in the Panhandle, with 2 at L. Tangelwood, *Randall* 15 Dec (PA, JCe). Ash-throated Flycatchers were found farther n. than normal this season with singles near Granger, *Williamson* 9 Dec (TFe) and one in *Kerr* 3 Jan (SW). Continuing a trend of recent years, a Brown-crested Flycatcher was at San Bernard, *Brazoria* 14 Dec (TMO, CH). The Great Kiskadees found at Missouri City, *Chambers* almost a year ago continued

through the season (m. ob.). A vocalizing Tropical Kingbird was at Rose Hill Cemetery in Corpus Christi 30 Dec (MC, WR), providing only the 4th record from the Coastal Prairies. Couch's/Tropical Kingbirds made an impressive movement up the coast this season, with numerous individual present as far ne. as *Colorado* and *Waller*. Some individuals were vocalizing, allowing definitive identification as Couch's. Western Kingbirds lingered along the upper and central coasts well into Dec, with the latest being one at San Bernard 14 Dec (DV, JHe). Probably a result of the extremely mild fall and early winter, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers lingered throughout Dec in much of the e. half of the state. A female Rose-throated Becard was at the McAllen Nature Center, *Hidalgo* 20-23 Jan (†ASy, CK). White-eyed Vireos wintered n. of their normal haunts, with singles noted in *Hunt*, *Tarrant*, and *Van Zandt* (*fide* MWh). A Bell's Vireo at Laguna Atascosa, *Cameron* 1 Feb (P&RA, ph.) provided a very rare mid-winter record for the state. A Bell's was at Big Bend on 22 Feb (DO, COK) and might have wintered locally. Plumbeous Vireos were found in cottonwood woodlands along the Rio Grande in Big Bend this season: one at Rio Grande Village 29 Dec (*fide* MF) and another at Cottonwood Campground 30 Jan (MF). A well-documented Cassin's Vireo was at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 1 Dec († MC). Cassin's Vireos continue to be reported without details elsewhere in the eastern two-thirds of the state. Separating this species from first-winter Blue-headed Vireo is a major identification challenge. Two Hutton's Vireos were discovered at Friedrich Park, *Bexar* 7 Feb+ (DE et. al). These birds add to what is becoming an annual occurrence in the Hill Country. A Philadelphia Vireo was studied at length at Freeport, *Brazoria* 16 Dec (†RW). In a year that lacked major movements of corvids, a Steller's Jay was a surprise at White River L., *Crosby* 30 Dec (LEAS). A Blue Jay frequented the area around the city zoo in El Paso 31 Dec—2 Jan (*fide* JZ). The known population of Brown Jays in Texas hovers at 13 individuals in two family groups (JA, BMc). Western Scrub-Jays are irregular visitors to Big Bend, this season, 5 were in the Chisos Mts. 28 Dec (m. ob.). For the 2nd consecutive winter, there were no Tamaulipas Crows in Texas.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

Very early for the South Plains was a Purple Martin at Lubbock 16 Feb (AF). Cave Swallows departed late and arrived early in the El Paso area, with one at McNary, *Hudspeth* 16 Dec (BZ, JPa), and 5 in El Paso 3 Feb (JSp). There were two records of single Barn

Swallows in the Trans-Pecos this season: *Hudspeth* 1 Dec (JPa) and Big Bend 22 Feb (DO, COK). In contrast to the past several winters, Red-breasted Nuthatches were very scarce across the state this season. Two Brown Creepers were at the grassland oasis at The Post County Park, *Brewster* 21 Dec (MC, AC). Although probably annual in the area, a red-backed Bewick's Wren was in e. *Williamson* 9 Dec (ML, TFe, BF). Winter Wrens are generally rare in the Trans-Pecos; this winter found one at Fort Bliss, *El Paso* 17 Dec (BZ, JZ, MSc), a 3rd county record. Also quite unexpected was a Sedge Wren in *Garza* 10 Feb (RK et al.). A Golden-crowned Kinglet wandered away from the montane woodlands to Fort Bliss 17 Dec (*fide* BZ). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was well n. of the normal wintering range in Lubbock 15 Dec (LEAS). A Wood Thrush wintered at the Valley Nature Center in Weslaco, *Hidalgo* (BMc). Reflecting the mild conditions, both American Robins and Cedar Waxwings were in very low numbers through most of the state this season. Gray Catbirds are rare and irregular in winter in the Trans-Pecos, and 2 were found this year: one near Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 2 Dec (KN) and another in the Chisos Basin of Big Bend 23 Jan (FJ). The **Blue Mockingbird** continued through the season in Weslaco (m. ob.). Providing a very rare winter sighting was a Golden-winged Warbler on Blackjack Peninsula, *Aransas* 19 Jan (PeH). A Tennessee Warbler was an unexpected winter visitor at McAllen, *Hidalgo* 27 Dec, where it remained through the period (JA). Orange-crowned Warblers are rare winter visitors to the Panhandle, and this season found an amazing 8 different individuals scattered through the Region. A Northern Parula in El Paso 1 Dec (JPa, BZ et al.) provided a rare county record. Likewise, a Chestnut-sided Warbler was rare for Austin 12 Jan (†SY); a Magnolia Warbler made an equally unexpected appearance in Austin 15 Dec (FD, CL). Two Black-throated Blue Warblers were on the U.T.C. in the early winter, with one at Quintana, *Brazoria* 1 Nov—7 Dec (MA et al.) and another on Bolivar Peninsula, *Galveston* 23 Dec (m. ob.). Much more unexpected was one at El Paso 3-13 Feb (JPa, ph.), a 2nd winter record for the county. Two Black-throated Gray Warblers wandered to the cen. coast, with singles at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 4 Jan—7 Feb (BF) and Corpus Christi through the season (m. ob.). An amazing concentration of up to 35 Pine Warblers wintered at Rose Hill Cemetery in Corpus Christi. A significant find was 4-5 Palm Warblers at two locations at L. Tawakoni 1 Dec—21 Jan (RR, MWh, RB). A Prairie Warbler at Smith Pt., *Chambers* 23 Feb

was noteworthy (DV). An Ovenbird returned to a residence near Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend*, for the 7th consecutive winter on 2 Dec (R&SJ). An inland Ovenbird was found at Utley, *Bastrop* 26 Dec—17 Feb (BF). A Common Yellowthroat made a rare Panhandle appearance at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson* 3 Jan (BP, BiM). A Hooded Warbler at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 23 Jan (SM, AM) may have been a wintering individual. Two Wilson's Warblers were reported from the Trans-Pecos this year, with one at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 22 Feb (DO, COK) and another near Marathon, *Brewster* 24 Feb.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Very unexpected was a Summer Tanager at Nacogdoches 4 Jan (DF). A female Western Tanager overwintered in Corpus Christi, and single males were at Bolivar Peninsula 23 Dec (DPe, DP) and *San Patricio* 4 Feb (JJ, PM). A Green-tailed Towhee was found on the Blackland Prairies near Granger, *Williamson* 3 Dec (BF). A flock of 80 Lark Buntings was a nice sight near Gonzales 14 Dec (BF). A Baird's Sparrow was found near White River L., *Crosby* 30 Dec (†AF). A good winter find for Big Bend was a Grasshopper Sparrow 27 Dec (MF). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows are very rarely found inland during the winter, one was at Waco 12-16 Dec (JM, FB). Two White-throated Sparrows at McNary, *Hudspeth* 16 Dec (BZ) were w. of their normal haunts in the Trans-Pecos. Three different Pink-sided Juncos appeared in the Pineywoods in *Angelina* and *Nacogdoches* 22 Dec—21 Jan (m. ob.). A Pyrrhuloxia wandered e. to *Milam* 3 Dec (BF). An ad. male Black-headed Grosbeak in *Nacogdoches* was present mid-Dec+ (MSm). There were 2 female Blue Buntings in *Hidalgo* this season; one was at Bensten-Rio Grande Valley 23 Jan+ (†JA et al.) and another at a private residence nearby from 14 Feb+ (†JA). An Indigo Bunting in *Burleson* 15 Dec (CL, EO) was unexpected away from the Coastal Prairies. Two Painted Buntings made news on the U.T.C. this season, with one at Freeport, *Brazoria* 16 Dec and another at L. Jackson 10 Jan+ (CR). A congregation of 1100 Rusty Blackbirds in *Rusk* 26 Jan (GLu) was the largest number reported in several years. A single Rusty Blackbird in Lubbock on 24 Feb (AF) was newsworthy. Up to 60 Common Grackles in El Paso 1-2 Dec (JSp, JZ, MSc) was well above the normal wintering number. A male Bronzed Cowbird at McNary Res. 16 Dec (JPa, BZ) provided a first winter record for the county. Unexpected was a Bullock's Oriole at Marathon, *Brewster* 21-22 Dec (AT). A Hooded Oriole was discovered in *Matagorda* 9-

28 Feb (*vide* CB, ph.). Several Altamira Orioles frequented San Ygnacio, *Zapata* during the season (m. ob.). A lingering Baltimore Oriole was at Buescher, *Bastrop* 5 Dec (BF). Providing a rare winter records was a male Baltimore in *Mason* 13 Dec (DF, BoF) and 2 birds 13 km s. of Alpine, *Brewster* 14 Jan (DWh) was equally rare. Even more astounding was a male Scott's Oriole in nw. *Collingsworth* 1 Dec († EK et al.) provided only the 5th Panhandle record and the first for winter. Purple Finches showed up in the Panhandle this season, with 2 at Happy, *Swisher* 31 Dec (I&WJ) and L. Tanglewood 2 Feb (TLJ). Cassin's Finches were generally absent this winter, but 3 were in the Davis Mts. 28 Feb (M&ME). **White-winged Crossbills** made an unprecedented appearance in the Panhandle this season, with 4 individuals noted. A female was at L. Tangelwood 24-28 Dec (TLJ, †BP, m. ob.), an ad. male was in Amarillo, *Randall* 30 Dec—29 Jan (†B&PN, m. ob.), another male was across town 23 Jan (†GH), and an imm. male was at the same location as the previously mentioned female 27 Jan—6 Feb (TLJ, †RSc, m. ob.). A Lesser Goldfinch was photographed at Hitchcock, *Galveston* 10 Feb (TO). The only Evening Grosbeak reported this season was one in Nacogdoches in late Jan (CM).

Undocumented reports

There were reports without details of Red-necked Grebe in *Travis*, Northern Goshawk in *Lubbock* and *Smith*, and Golden-crowned Sparrow in *El Paso*.

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): **Mark Adams** (Trans-Pecos: HC75, Box 1337-B, Ft. Davis, TX 79734-5016. email: mta@astro.as.utexas.edu), Pam Allison, John Arvin, Ron Baltzger, Nancy Bird, Lorie Black, Hazel Bluhm, Charles Brower, Frank Bungardner, Cindy Caplen, Oscar Carmona, Joe Cepeda (JCe), Fred Collins, Jim Connally (JCo), Arlie Cooksey, **Mel Cooksey** (South Texas: 15825 Socorro Loop, Corpus Christi, TX 78418. email: arliec@ciris.net), Marc and Maryann Eastman, Kim Eckert, Dodge Engleman, Ted Eubanks, Jesse Fagan, Tim Fennell, Rob Fergus, Dixie Feuerbacher, Dean Fisher, Mark Flippo, Anthony Floyd, Bobbye Frazier, Brush Freeman (BF), **Bert Frenz** (BFR) (East Texas: 221 Rainbow Dr., PMB 12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021. email: bert@bafrenz.com), Michael Gray, Georgette Guernsey, James Hamous (JHam), Jeff Hanson (JHan), Jose Hernandez (JHe), Chuck Hill, Jim Hunson (JHi), Petra Hockey (PHo), Grace Holloway, Peggy Holt (PeH), P. D. Hulce (PDH), David Hurt, Jimmy Jackson, Denis James (DJa), Irene & Wiley James, Simone Jenion, Rich &

Sally Jespersion, Thomas L. Johnson, Frances Jones, Rich Kostecke, Ed Kutac, Clif Ladd, Tom Langschie, Greg Levandoski (GLE), Cathy Liles, Llano Estacado Audubon Society, Keith Lockhart, Mark Lockwood, Guy Luneau (GLU), Art MacKinnon, Michael Marsden (MM), Mike Mathews (MMA), Terry Maxwell (TMA), Steve Mayes, Bill McKinney (BiM), Brad McKinney (BMc), Bob Metzler (BMe), Wayne Meyer, Paul Miliotis, Charlotte Montgomery, Tom Morris (TMO), John Muldrow, Bill & Pat Needham, Kathy Nesbitt, Cal Newnam, Dale Ohl, Carolyn Ohl-Kolb, Jerry Oldenettle, Tom O'Neal, Elaine Owens, Jay Packer (JaP), Laura Packer, Jim Paton (JPa), Dick Peake (DPe), Dwight Peake (DP), Barrett Pierce, Brandon Pope, Truman Powell, Sumita Prasad, Ross Rasmussen, Eddie Ray (ERa), Joel Reese, Martin Reid, Sherrie

Rhoden, Cecilia Riley, Ed Rozenburg (ERo), Will Russell, Laura Sare, Marcy Scott (MSc), Rosemary Scott (RSc), Jim & Phoebe Lou Sealy, **Willie Sekula** (Central Texas: 7060 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113-2627. email: wsekula@the-cia.net), **Ken Seyffert** (Northwest: 226 S Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), Molly Smith (MSm), John Sproul (JSp), Tom Stehn, Rose Marie Storz, Glenn Swartz (GSw), Ann Syptak (ASy), Alan Tennant, Don Verser, **Ron Weeks** (UTC: 110 Indian Warrior, L. Jackson, TX 77566. email: igarapet@brazosport.cc.tx.us), Don White (DWh), **Matt White** (MWh) (N C Texas: 882 Hwy 50, Campell, TX 75422. email: mkwhite@903internet.com), Sue Wiedenfeld, Alan Wormington, Scott Young, Craig Zalk, Jimmy Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer.



Idaho-Western Montana



David Trochlell
1931 Tallwood Lane
Boise, Idaho 83706
(dtrochlell@velocity.net)

The winter of 2001 was mild to average, without dramatic weather events or Arctic cold fronts. Even the coldest locations experienced few subzero days, and these periods were of short duration. Precipitation was unevenly