

Texas



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The consensus around the state this spring was that it was dry, a familiar theme for much of the state in recent years. In Central Texas, the Austin area had precious little precipitation during April and May. For San Antonio, May was the second driest in about 120 years of record-keeping, and Midland continues to suffer through what seems like an endless drought. Houston's Intercontinental Airport had only 9.04 cm for the entire spring period versus a norm of 30.76 cm.

A fairly strong front moved through the state on 28–29 March, grounding large numbers of migrants along the coast. Some long-time observers were astounded by the numbers of warblers found in woodlots along the

Upper and Central coasts. Overall, weather conditions were conducive to seeing migrants along the coast through much of the spring, although there were no large groundings during peak migration.

Eastern migrants appeared in the western half of the state in good diversity but perhaps in lower numbers than average. The highlight of the period was the appearance of two Slate-throated Redstarts, one in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and the other in Big Bend National Park. The Blue Mockingbird found during the winter remained through the spring, repeating the pattern of one that spent three years in nearby Weslaco.

Abbreviations: T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast); N.S. (National Seashore); V.C. D. B. (Village Creek Drying Beds). The following are shortened names for the respective local, county, state, or national parks, and wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Brazoria, Buffalo Lake, San Bernard, and Santa Ana.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

The Red-throated Loon present this winter at Balmorhea L., Reeves was last seen on 23 Mar (ML). Pacific Loons were found at L. Buchanan, Llano 1–12 Mar (TFe, SA), L. O'The Pines, Marion 11 Mar (TFe), and L. Texoma, Grayson 14 Mar (RR, BG). A family group of Least Grebes at Brazoria 29 Mar implied local breeding (JSt et al.). Two alternate-plumaged Horned Grebes were an unexpected sight at Stillhouse Hollow L., Bell 11 Apr (RPi). A high count of 18 Western Grebes was noted on L. Buchanan, Llano 1 Mar (TFe). A Clark's Grebe in Lubbock 9 Mar (AF) provided one of the few records for the South Plains. In contrast to last year, only 12 ad. *Aechmophorus* grebes, and no young, were at McNary Res., Hudspeth 31 May (JPa). An early Masked Booby was seen from the Quintana Jetty, Brazoria 15 Mar (J&WR). A few scattered Brown Pelicans were found inland, including one flying over IH-20 in Midland 26 May (BLu) and another at Ft. Hancock, El Paso 6 Apr (BJ, JSp et al.). A Neotropic Cormorant at L. Sam Rayburn, San Augustine 3 Apr (DW) provided the first Apr record for the Pineywoods. On 25 May, Paton located a rookery in w. El Paso that included 6 Neotropic Cormorant nests, the first in El Paso.

A Least Bittern along the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail in Big Bend 31 Mar (LC) was a nice find in the park, as was a Tricolored Heron present there 9–13 Apr (ShW, MF et al.). Black-crowned Night-Herons also frequented Rio Grande Village, including 2 ads. carrying nesting material 13 Apr (MF). White-faced Ibis congregated in very large numbers at El Paso's Feather L. this season, reaching a peak of 6,700 birds 19 Apr (JSp). Unexpected spring Wood Storks were found on the Trinity R., Chambers 18 Apr (SL) and Addicks Res., Harris 20 Apr (TK).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

A very good find was a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Rio Grande Village, Brewster 7 May (PAb), as was one at Lubbock 15 May (BBE). A Greater White-fronted Goose lingered at Taylor, Williamson until 7 May (TFe). Five Tundra Swans were noted at L. Meredith 6 Mar (RCa). The 9 Wood Ducks that wintered in Midland remained until 7 Apr (RMS). A high count of 750+ Blue-winged Teal was tallied at Hagerman, Grayson from late Apr to early May (RR). Late-departing Green-winged Teal were noted in Midland 26 May (RMS, BE) and in w. Jeff Davis 29 May (DD, SCA). A Greater Scaup at Beaumont, Jefferson, 10 May (JWh et al.) represented a new U.T.C. late date. An imm. male Surf Scoter at Balmorhea L., Reeves 1–16 May was an unexpected find (MAd et al.), as was a male at Keystone Marsh, El Paso 18–24 May (JKI,

JPa). Four White-winged Scoters were along old highway 87 in Jefferson 10 Apr (MO), and Black Scoters remained as late as 5 Apr in Jefferson (EC et al.). The Long-tailed Duck found in the winter at Shallowater, Lubbock remained until 30 Apr (m. ob.). A Common Goldeneye at Texas City, Galveston 30 Apr was the 2nd latest for the U.T.C. (TFr, TC, SCo). A female Hooded Merganser with 3 ducklings in Austin 27 Apr (RO) was a nice find. A Hooded Merganser at San Bernard N.W.R., Brazoria 16 May was the latest ever reported for the U.T.C. (MG et al.).

There were two active Osprey nests found this year, one at L. Sam Rayburn, Angelina (DW, JF) and another at L. Houston, Harris (fide CSh). A very late migrant Swallow-tailed Kite was at Packery Channel, Nueces 1 May (AC, MC). A White-tailed Kite at El Paso 1–10 Mar (LBa, JSp †, m. ob.) was the 2nd for El Paso. Mississippi Kites appear to be expanding their nesting range in cen. Texas, with nesting birds noted in several previously unknown locations. An imm. Northern Goshawk was well documented on a private ranch in n. Presidio 8 May († ph., KBr, JO). Single Gray Hawks at Shafter, Presidio 2 Apr (FK) and along the West Sabinal R., Bandera 23 Apr (JaH et al.) were at unexpected locations. Five Broad-winged Hawks were reported from nw. Texas, with the earliest in Lubbock 12 Apr (MDo) and the latest at Buffalo L. 23–24 May (KS LS). An imm. dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk was seen on a private ranch in n. Presidio 8 May (KBr, JO); another was at Big Bend Ranch 25 May (SCa, DD). Two Short-tailed Hawks were reported this spring: a dark morph at Bentsen, Hidalgo 5 Apr (†MI, BZ) and 3 May (†OC), and a light-morph bird at Sabal Palm, Cameron 12 Apr (†ChS et al.). An exceptionally early Swainson's Hawk arrived near Houston, Harris 23 Feb (JTh). A Zone-tailed Hawk wandered into e. Bastrop 16 May (JMu). Lone Peregrine Falcons sighted in El Paso 3 & 25 May led Paton to suspect that a pair might be nesting in the Franklin Mts.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Radio-tagged Yellow Rails at Brazoria were "lost" on 14 and 24 Apr, which suggests they had left the area (AG). A Black Rail in Lubbock 3 May (AF) afforded the first spring record for the South Plains. A vocal King Rail was at Alazan Bayou, Nacogdoches 4 Mar–10 Apr (JF et al.). A Purple Gallinule at Richardson, Dallas 5–12 May (BG, RCh,

m. ob.) provided a rare local record. A Sandhill Crane lingered at Lubbock to the very late date of 28 May (JTS et al.) Two Whooping Cranes were noted during their brief stopover at Stillhouse Hollow L., Bell 11 Apr (RPi).



A pair of Common Black-Hawks returned to the same cottonwood grove at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend National Park for the eighth consecutive year. The hawks were first seen 13 March 2003, and nesting activities were noted by early April. The male was generally the more easily observable of the pair (here 12 April). Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.



This immature Northern Goshawk provided only the 18th documented record for Texas. This individual was on a private ranch in northern Presidio County 8 May 2003. Photograph by Kelly B. Bryan.

On the High Plains, Black-bellied Plovers were noted in Carson 5 Apr (EK, BPi, RSc), Ralls, Crosby 26 Apr (VL), and Cactus L., Moore 17 May (KS). A group of 13 Black-bellied Plovers was at Hagerman, Grayson 13–20 May (m. ob.). A very good find was an American Golden-Plover at Idalou, Lubbock 10 May (BBE, BPh). Mountain Plovers were last noted in the Granger L. area, Williamson 26 Mar (BFR). A high count of 45 Willets was tallied at Granger L., Williamson 26 Apr (TFE). Farther w., surprising numbers of Willets included 17 at El Paso 27 Apr and 25 at Tornillo Res., El Paso 3 May. Two Spotted Sandpipers at Greenbelt L., Donley 15 Mar (BPi) were three weeks early for the Panhandle, but earlier still was one in Lubbock 8 Mar (AF). Inland Whimbrels included one at Hager-

man 17 Apr (RR), one at Kirby L., Taylor 7 May (fide LBI), 2 at L. Benbrook, Tarrant 20 May (MR), and another at Hagerman 16 May (BG). A late Long-billed Curlew was in a Midland alfalfa field 27 May (SE). Two Hudsonian Godwits were a fine find in Floyd 30 May (JST). A flock of 13 Ruddy Turnstones was noted at L. Benbrook, Tarrant 20 May (JCo). A Surf-bird was observed along old 87 e. of High 1. in Jefferson 7 Apr (†EC) and again on 11 Apr (†MO); if accepted, it would represent the 8th state record. A well-described White-rumped Sandpiper was at Choke Canyon Res., Live Oak on the unprecedented early date of 5 Apr (MO). An estimated 2500 White-rumped Sandpipers 11 May at Pelican I., Galveston was a noteworthy count (JSt et al.). Farther w., 6 White-rumped Sandpipers were in Midland 21 May (m. ob.). The Purple Sandpiper that wintered at Freeport remained until 3 May (HB, m. ob.), but another was discovered on the North Jetty at Port Bolivar, Galveston 29 Apr–4 May (RM, †TK et al.). An amazing 52 Dunlin were observed at L. Benbrook 20 May as they passed through in small flocks during the day (MR), and 21 others were noted at Hagerman 21 May (BG).

A good concentration of 33 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was noted on an Austin golf course, Travis 9 Apr (SY), and a single individual at Katy Prairie, Harris 18 May was late (KH). A female Ruff was well described from Anahuac N.W.R., Chambers 19 Apr (†C-TL). Two displaying American Woodcocks were found within a mile of salt water at San Bernard N.W.R., Brazoria 4 Mar (RWE). Lingered American Woodcocks were present near Uteley, Bastrop 15–22 Mar (BFR) and Austin, Travis 20 May (SY). Rare during spring, a Red-necked Phalarope was noted in Midland 17 May (RMS).

Laughing Gulls were found at L. Benbrook, Tarrant 15 Apr and 20 May (MR). A first-year Little Gull was reported at Beaumont, Jefferson 27 Apr (NBI et al.) and last seen 29 Apr (†MO). A very white gull identified as an Iceland Gull was photographed from the Quintana/Surfside Jetties, Brazoria 11–12 Mar (†HT, PKE); there is only one confirmed state record of this species. The wintering Glaucous Gull at Galveston was last reported 19 Apr (C-TL), and the wintering Great Black-backed Gull from Boca Chica, Cameron was last seen 24 Mar (JA). A migrating Caspian Tern was a great find at Ft. Hancock, Hudspeth 11 May (JPa). A

Royal Tern at L. Belton, *Bell* 12 May (RPi) provided a very good inland record and a county first. Noteworthy inland Common Terns included one at Midland 18 May (SSC, RMS), 3 at L. Benbrook 20 May (MR), and one at Hagerman 21 May (BG).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A pair of Common Ground-Doves was at Granger L., *Williamson* 22 Apr (TFe). A late migrant Black-billed Cuckoo was near Uteley, *Bastrop* 26 May (BFR). Migrating Flammulated Owls were discovered in Lubbock 24 Apr (JCr) and El Paso 3 May (RHe, JKi, BJ et al.). Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls continue to be present at Bentsen, *Hidalgo* (m. ob.). A Barred Owl in *Donley* 7 May (BPi) provided a 2nd county record. Two Long-eared Owls were discovered in w. *Travis* 24 Mar (BFR). A well-described Short-eared Owl was at Brazoria on the record-late date of 26 May (SL, SG). A Common Pauraque wandered n. and set up shop in w. *Guadalupe* 2 Apr+ (SSc et al.). Common Poorwills arrived early in *Lubbock*, with singles noted 12 & 30 Mar (EM, AF); also early were 2 at L. Tanglewood, *Randall* 2 Apr (TLJ). Nine Chuckwill's-widow's in *Donley* 7 May (BPi) and 3 near Afton, *Dickens* 10 May (B&SR) provided further evidence of possible nesting in the Panhandle and South Plains. An early Whip-poor-will was heard at Appleby, *Nacogdoches* 13 Mar (KBu), while another heard near Salado, *Bell* 4 Apr (RPi) provided a county first. Three Green Violet-ears were noted at two Hill Country locations this season: one near Comfort, *Kendall* 4–14 May (ph. PW, †SWi) and 2 near Johnson City, *Blanco* 19 May+ (VA, m. ob.; †, ph.). An ad. male Broad-billed Hummingbird returned to Ft. Davis 24 Apr+ (KBr †, m. ob.), and another ad. male made a brief visit to an El Paso yard 12 Apr (†BZ). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird in w. Austin, *Travis* 11 Apr (NBa) was one of the few from the Hill Country. The Calliope Hummingbird that wintered at Russ Pitman Park, *Harris* lingered until 12 Apr (DVe et al.); another that wintered in Houston, *Harris* was last seen 31 Mar (J&WR). A female Calliope Hummingbird banded 20 Feb by Swartz in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* was recaptured 13 Apr.

A Ringed Kingfisher was spotted along the Llano R., *Kimble* 2 May (RhH). A female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* 11 May was the 2nd latest for the U.T.C. (WP). Ladder-backed Woodpeckers continued at Damon, *Brazoria* through the spring, suggesting that a small breeding population may be present (RWe). A well-described Hairy Woodpecker at Cypress, *Harris* on the odd date of 10 May was the first for the U.T.C. in many years (KaB). A Hairy Woodpecker was unexpected at Lubbock 30 Mar (AF,

SA Bryan continued to investigate the *Vermivora* warblers present in the upper elevations of the Davis Mountains. This spring he audiotaped and captured an apparent Colima Warbler 21 May. Another Colima Warbler present in 1999 and 2000 has been the only other male *Vermivora* to exhibit a classic Colima song. These individuals were found in open Ponderosa Pine woodlands with an understory of pinyon, juniper, and oaks.

Measurements of what appeared to be Virginia's Warbler from this same area last year revealed figures above the maxima expected for the species. This suggests a possible secondary contact zone between Virginia's and Colima Warblers in which at least occasional hybridization occurs. So far, all *Vermivora* found on the upper ridges of the mountain, primarily in Gambel's Oak thickets, have proven to be typical Virginia's Warblers, although additional research is needed.

B&SR). A Pileated Woodpecker wandered e. to in se. *Bell* 1 Mar (RPi).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH JAYS

An early Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Port Bolivar, *Galveston* 13 Apr (SMe et al.). The Greater Pewee that spend the winter at Anzalduas, *Hidalgo* remained until 19 Mar (†m. ob.). Unexpected so far nw. was a singing Eastern Wood-Pewee near Texline, *Dallam* 25 May (BPi). Excellent finds were a Hammond's and 2 Dusky Flycatchers at Muleshoe 27 Apr (BBE, AF) and a Gray Flycatcher at Lubbock 11 May (AF). A pair of Buff-breasted Flycatchers returned to the cen. Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* for the 5th consecutive year, but for the first time 2 males were present 2 May+ (†KBr et al.). A Black Phoebe was at Buffalo L. 15 Apr–4 May (KS, PAc). An Eastern Phoebe at Quintana, *Brazoria* 27 Apr was extremely late (CBr). Two pairs of Eastern Phoebes were located in *Brazos*, where the species is a rare nester (m. ob.). A Say's Phoebe at L. Denton, *Denton* 16–17 Apr (ED) was a county first. A Vermilion Flycatcher wandered n. to Lubbock 7 Apr (PKi).

A Dusky-capped Flycatcher returned to Big Bend's Boot Canyon 16 Apr, and 2 may have been present 3 May (*vide* MF; †m. ob.). An Ash-throated Flycatcher in *Collin* 26 May (RR) was the first for the county. A Great Crested Flycatcher along Alum Cr., *Bastrop* 16 Mar (BFR) was early. Two Brown-crested Flycatchers at Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend* 22 Mar may have overwintered (MAu). Wandering Brown-crested Flycatchers were found at Cottonwood Campground, *Brewster* 16 Apr (MF), *Hays* 30 Apr (BFR), *Webberville Park*, *Travis* 4 May (BFR, PS), and *Rio Grande Village* 7 May (PAb). Great Kiskadees made rare Trans-Pecos appearances, with one at *Rio Grande Village* 24–25 Apr (JSm, ROI) and 2 in nw. *Pecos* 27 May (CE, JG). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was present at Packery Channel, *Nueces* 30 Apr–1 May (†LA, †MC), providing the 13th record for the state. A non-vocalizing Couch's/Tropical Kingbird at *Pandale*, *Val Verde* 21 Apr seemed a bit farther nw. than expected (EC). Couch's Kingbirds returned to *Webberville Park*, *Travis* 12 Apr (BFR), and another pair was observed nest building in *New Braunfels*, *Comal* 11 Apr (CuH). A

Thick-billed Kingbird on the Davis Mts. Preserve 17 May (†ML et al.) was a first record for *Jeff Davis*. A Western Kingbird at *Lubbock* 16 Mar (BBE) was one of the earliest ever for the South Plains. An Eastern Kingbird was noted at several locations in Big Bend 19–20 May (B&SB, OP). The female Rose-throated Becard that spent last summer at Santa Ana returned 9 Mar+ (*vide* BMC).

A male Black-capped Vireo was an excellent find in n. *Presidio* 28 May (SCa, DD), as was a male heard at the Cedar Ridge Preserve, *Dallam* 3 May (KC). Yellow-throated Vireos wandered w. to *Rio Grande Village*, *Brewster* 31 Mar (BMA), *Lubbock* 10 May (TSR), and *Jeff Davis* 28 May (SCa, DD). The 7 Plumbeous Vireos in the Amarillo/Bufallo L. area were in an area where this species' status is poorly known. A Blue-headed Vireo frequented *Big Bend's* Cottonwood Campground 12–16 Apr (ML, MF). Hill Country Hutton's Vireos were seen along the *Guadalupe R.*, *Kerr* 9 Apr (TG) and *Live Oak Cr.*, *Crockett* 21 Apr (EC). A Philadelphia Vireo was in *Lubbock* 27 Apr (AF). Early Warbling Vireos were found at *Sea Rim*, *Jefferson* 26 Mar (GD) and *Sabine Woods*, *Jefferson* 27 Mar (JHa). Warbling Vireos returned to *Webberville Park*, *Travis* 4 May+ (BFR et al.), and one was observed gathering nesting material at *McKinney Roughs*, *Bastrop* 6 May (CM). A Red-eyed Vireo at *Sabine Woods*, *Jefferson* 6 Mar was one of the earliest ever for the U.T.C. (AM). Two Red-eyed Vireos were at *Big Bend Ranch* 26 May (SCa, DD). A Yellow-green Vireo was documented at *Quintana*, *Brazoria* 12 May (†TCo), and another was on *South Padre I.*, *Cameron* 21–30 May (†JA, ph. BMC). Black-whiskered Vireos have become almost annual in spring on the U.T.C.; this spring, singles were reported from w. *Galveston Island*, *Galveston* 23 Apr, 14 May, and 19 May (†JSt), and from *Sabine Woods*, *Jefferson* 23 May (†DVe). The Steller's Jays that wintered in the Panhandle/South Plains and in the El Paso area lingered into Apr, with one in *Amarillo* remaining to a record-late date of 17 Apr and one in *El Paso* continuing to be seen into the first week of May (JPa). Quite surprising was a Western Scrub-Jay in the desert lowlands of *Big Bend Ranch*, *Presidio* 21 May (DD, SCa).

Sizable flocks of Pinyon Jays continued in *Jeff Davis* into late May (m.ob). Amazingly, the Clark's Nutcrackers discovered during the winter in the Davis Mountains Preserve continued through the period († m. ob.). There was only one documented sighting of Tamaulipas Crow during the season: 2 birds at Brownsville, *Cameron* 15 Mar († ph., LBr, JKe).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

Pairs of Tree Swallows were present at scattered locations from the ne. corner of the state s. to L. Belton and Stillhouse Hollow L., *Bell*. Early-arriving Cliff Swallows were noted at Midland, where numbers were present by 4 Mar (DK), and 50 had returned to the FM-1462 bridge over the Brazos R., *Fort Bend/Brazoria* by 8 Mar (TK). A Black-crested Titmouse wandered in Amarillo 29 May (BPi), where it provided only the 2nd record for the city despite the close proximity to the population in Palo Duro Canyon. Totally unexpected was a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Amarillo, *Randall* 29 May (RSc, BPi). A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches was seen along the Canadian R. in n.-cen. *Potter* 3 May (RSc et al.), suggesting possible nesting. A Brown Creeper at Port Aransas, *Nueces* 4 Mar provided a rare barrier-island record (JF). A rarity was a Sedge Wren at Lubbock 9 Mar (AF). Lingering Golden-crowned Kinglets were found 4 Apr at Lefitte's Cove, *Galveston* (KBa) and at Midland 20 Apr (RMS). Very unexpected were 5 Western Bluebirds at Midland 1 May (BE, RMS). A Veery at Chalk Bluff, *Uvalde* 23 Apr (MO) provided a very rare Edwards Plateau sighting. In n.-cen. Texas, single Veeries were banded 29 Apr and 3 May at the Heard Natural Science Museum, *Collin*, and another was in *Wichita* 10–11 May (TM). A very good find was a Gray-cheeked Thrush at Lubbock 11 May (AF). Late Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes were at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 26 May, with the Swainson's setting a new late record (DVe). Paton had 2 "russet-backed" Swainson's Thrushes in his El Paso yard 12–21 May; this form has rarely

Table 1. Eastern warblers found in the western half of Texas during spring 2003.

Golden-winged	27 Apr	Boot Canyon, Big Bend (J&LW)
	30 Apr	Oak Springs, Big Bend (JHa)
Tennessee	3 May	<i>Potter</i> (BPi, RSc et al.)
	3 May	Boot Spring, Big Bend (ML, EC, MAd)
	19 May	Big Bend Ranch, <i>Presidio</i> (ML)
Northern Parula	1 May	Rio Grande Village, Big Bend (EKw)
Chestnut-sided	16 May	Pampa, <i>Gray</i> (ME) & Lubbock, <i>Lubbock</i> (JB)
Magnolia	5 May	Laguna Meadows, Big Bend (JCr)
Black-throated Blue	5 May	Sam Nail Ranchsite, Big Bend (GL et al.)
	11 May	w. <i>Jeff Davis</i> (JO)
Black-throated Green	11 May	Lubbock (AF)
	20 May	Big Bend Ranch, <i>Presidio</i> (SCa, DD, ML)
	25 May	Rita Blanca L., <i>Hartley</i> (BPi)
	26 May	Big Bend Ranch, <i>Presidio</i> (SCa)
Yellow-throated	17 Apr	Santa Elena Canyon, Big Bend (PD)
Palm	27 Apr	Lubbock (AF) & Muleshoe N.W.R., <i>Bailey</i> (BBE, AF)
	2 May	Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend (J&WR et al.)
	4 May	Buffalo L., <i>Randall</i> (BPi)
	4 May	Rio Grande Village, Big Bend (RWa)
	10 May	Feather Lakes, <i>El Paso</i> (JSp)
	25 May	Big Bend Ranch, <i>Presidio</i> (DD, SCa)
American Redstart	10 May	El Paso, <i>El Paso</i> (JPa)
	mid-May	Christmas Mts., <i>Brewster</i> (COK)
	19 May	Big Bend Ranch, <i>Presidio</i> (SCa, DD, ML)
	25 May	Big Bend Ranch, <i>Presidio</i> (DD, SCa)
	27 & 29 May	w. <i>Jeff Davis</i> (DD, SCa) (2 individuals)
Prothonotary	27 Apr	Buffalo L. (LS)
	24 May	Buffalo L. (PT)
	2 May	Chinati Mts., <i>Presidio</i> (ML)
	21 May	Big Bend Ranch, <i>Presidio</i> (DD, SCa)
Worm-eating	11 Apr	Dugout Wells, Big Bend (MF)
	10 May	Lubbock (AF)
Ovenbird	4 May	Lubbock (KD)
Northern Waterthrush	12 May	w. <i>Jeff Davis</i> (JO)
	26 May	Big Bend Ranch, <i>Presidio</i> (DD, SCa)
Louisiana Waterthrush	19 Apr	Lubbock (MDO, AF)
	4 May	Lubbock (AF)
Hooded	26 Apr	<i>Crosby</i> (ML, RL)
	2 May	Chinati Mts., <i>Presidio</i> (ML)
	4 May	Lubbock (AF, RWa)
	10–11 May	Buffalo L. (PT, KS)

been documented in the state. Hermit Thrushes were unusually abundant in the Panhandle and South Plains, but 52 at Buffalo L. 11 May (KS) were astounding. Single Wood Thrushes were noted at Buffalo L. 15 Apr (KS), Lubbock 10 May (AF), and Midland 11–16 May (JMe). The Clay-colored Robin discovered last summer in Gonzales,

Gonzales was seen again on 29 Mar (JHa). A remarkable find was a male Aztec Thrush in Boot Canyon, *Brewster* 18 Apr (†MO); if accepted it would represent the 5th state record.

Gray Catbirds seemed to be especially numerous in the Trans-Pecos this spring, with reports of at least 7 individuals. The Blue Mockingbird present at Pharr, *Hidalgo* since the winter remained until 26 May (†m. ob.). A late migrant Sprague's Pipit was seen in the Granger L. area 26 Apr (TFe). A Tennessee Warbler at Paradise Pond, *Nueces* 22 Mar provided a record-early arrival date for the Coastal Bend (MH, WS). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Quintana, *Brazoria* 27 Apr was very late (CBr). A Virginia's Warbler was noted at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 27 Apr (BBE, AF), and 2 were at Buffalo L. the same day (BPi).

A Tropical Parula at Lubbock 18 May (TSR, BBE, ph.) represented the first South Plains record and the northernmost for the state. Eastern warblers were widespread in the w. half of the state this season (Table 1). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was a nice surprise at San Antonio 4 May (JMi). An early Blackburnian Warbler was seen 28 Mar at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* (JWh et al.). A singing male Prairie Warbler was near Chappell Hill, *Washington* 31 May (DVo). Palm Warblers lingered exceptionally late on the U.T.C., with singles at w. Galveston 1. 8 May (JSt) and along Pilot Road, *Jefferson* 10 May (SMa). A Prothonotary Warbler at Wallisville, *Harris* 8 Mar may represent a new U.T.C. early date (DS). Worm-eating Warblers seen 13 Mar at both Sea Rim S.P. and Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* eclipsed the old U.T.C. early date by a day (GD). An Ovenbird heard singing at High 1., *Galveston* 26 May was quite late (DVe). Northern

Waterthrushes found on 6 Mar at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* (AM) and 7 Mar at Port Aransas, *Nueces* (AC, MC) were likely wintering birds. A Kentucky Warbler at Park Chalk Bluff, *Uvalde* 23 Apr (MO) was a nice find, as was a Mourning Warbler in Lubbock 10 May (BBE, BPh). A Hooded Warbler at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 6 Mar (AM) was

early. Freeman found a Hooded in nw. *Hays* 14 Apr, for a rare Hill Country record. The Painted Redstart that wintered in Richmond, *Fort Bend* was last seen 14 Mar (WH). At least two pairs of Painted Redstarts were present in Boot Canyon beginning 19 Apr (EC), and nest-building was observed. A wandering Painted Redstart visited Balmorhea S.P., *Reeves* 20 Apr (TJo). Perhaps the highlight of the season was 2 Slate-throated Redstarts, one in Pharr, *Hidalgo* 12–13 Mar (†, ph. SWH et al.) and the other in the Boot Spring area of Big Bend 2–3 May (†S&LI et al., ph.). The much-celebrated Golden-crowned Warbler at Edinburg during the winter was last recorded 6 Apr (DHo, m. ob.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A female Hepatic Tanager was out of its normal habitat at a desert spring at Big Bend Ranch 21 May (DD). Clay-colored Sparrows lingered in *Jeff Davis* until 28 May (SCa, DD). A late-migrating Vesper Sparrow was at San Bernard, *Brazoria* 30 Apr (CR et al.). A tardy Lark Bunting was noted in Midland 28 May (JMe), and a straggling Savannah Sparrow was in Austin, *Travis* 12 May (BFR, PS). Several Grasshopper Sparrows were heard singing on the Katy Prairie, *Harris* 21 May (J&WR), suggestive of nesting. A Baird's Sparrow was at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 4–7 May (†RiW). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow seen at Brazoria 24 May constitutes the latest record ever for the U.T.C. (C-TL). A Lincoln's Sparrow lingered until 21 May at Midland (JMe). Late-departing *Zonotrichia* included a Harris's Sparrow at Austin, *Travis* 19 Apr (SA, SY, JHa) and a White-crowned Sparrow at Lubbock 25 May (TSR). Very interesting were two late junco, a Gray-headed Junco at Stillhouse Hollow L., *Bell* 6 Apr (RPi) and a Slate-colored Junco at Lubbock 10 May (TSR).

In recent years, Rose-breasted Grosbeak has been found to be a regular migrant in the e. half of the Tran-Pecos, and this season had brought seven reports. Lazuli Buntings were found in above-average numbers in the e. Hill Country and Blackland Prairies. Most notable was a documented record of a Lazuli x Indigo Bunting nest containing three nestlings 22 May at Fort Hood, *Coryell* (RK, SSu); unfortunately the nest was depredated by 31 May. Early migrant Indigo Buntings were detected 20 Mar at Quintana, *Brazoria* (BLi) and 21 Mar in *Jefferson* (SMa, AM). Very noteworthy was a Bobolink at Lubbock 20 Apr (AF). Rare in the Big Bend, a Common Grackle was at Rio Grande Village 4 May (RWa), and another was at Panther Junction 17 May (MF). A lone Common Grackle was also noted near Marathon, *Brewster* 31 May (DB, BPe). Details were

supplied for male Shiny Cowbirds observed at San Marcos, *Hays* 1 Mar (DP) and near Winnie, *Chambers* 26 Apr (TFR, PF). If accepted, they will represent the 9th and 10th records for Texas. A male Bronzed Cowbird made news at College Station, *Brazos* 21 Apr (ER, LF). A male Hooded Oriole was present near Fort Davis 25–28 Apr (T&CH, D&LH). At least 2 Baltimore Orioles wandered w. to Big Bend, where single males were noted at Dugout Wells 25 Apr (BC), Castalon 1 May (EKw), and Cottonwood Campground 3 May (BC, RWa). A Purple Finch made an unexpected late-spring visit to Amarillo, *Randall* 29 Apr (EK). Cassin's Finches lingered in the Davis Mts. at least into late Apr (M&ME). More intriguing were 2 male Cassin's Finches reported at Rio Grande Village 9 Apr (ShW, DA) and another male in Boot Canyon 1 May (BC). After seeing none all winter, Paton was surprised by 4 Red Crossbills in his El Paso yard 9 Mar. Small numbers of Red Crossbills were also present in the Davis Mts. Preserve during May (KBr et al.). More unexpected was a Red Crossbill at Wichita Falls, *Wichita* 16 May (JHo). Two very late-departing Pine Siskins were at a private ranch in *Presidio* 30 May (SCa, DD). Six or more Lesser Goldfinches visited an Amarillo, *Randall* feeder 22 Feb–31 Mar (B&JP).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

The following Texas Bird Records Review Species were reported without documentation: Masked Duck on King Ranch, *Kenedy* 12 Apr; Short-tailed Hawks in *Cameron* and *Hidalgo*; an Elegant Trogon (heard only) in Big Bend's Green Gulch 28–29 May.

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