

# Texas



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Spring migration was described as "spectacular" in the Lower Rio Grande Valley by seasoned observer John Arvin, with numerous fallouts making for birding unlike he had seen in recent decades. Many observers in the eastern third of the state and in north-central Texas commented on the quality and quantity of migrants seen during the season, although the migration "calendar" seemed to be shifted back about 5–10 days for many inland locations. For most of the western half of the state, the spring season was rather lackluster, with very little eastern component to the migration. However, in the Pan-

handle, an exceptional selection of warblers included 14 primarily eastern species. Much of this can be tied to weather patterns, of course, with heavy and frequent rains grounding migrants in the eastern half of the state, along the coast, and in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

As is often the case in spring, there were several exceptional rarities discovered, including an enticing pair on the Upper Coast at Texas City: a subadult Great White Heron and a Greater (Caribbean) Flamingo. These competed with the cavalcade of rare gulls that took up residence at the landfill at Corpus Christi and with the first U.S. record of Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, which in turn complemented a nice assortment of other Mexican strays. Perhaps the most intriguing find of the season was a snipe in Fort Worth that showed some characteristics of a Common Snipe, the Eurasian species recently split from Wilson's Snipe of North America.

**Abbreviations:** T.B.R.C. (Texas B.R.C.); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast). The following are shortened names for the respective local, county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Buffalo Lake, Caprock Canyons, San Bernard, Santa Ana, Sea Rim, and South Llano River.

## LOONS THROUGH FLAMINGO

Three Red-throated Loons at Benbrook L., Tarrant 20 Mar (ph. MR) were a rare sight. Unprecedented for the Hill Country was the group of up to 5 basic-plumaged Pacific Loons present at L. Buchanan, Llano 1 Mar–25 Apr (ph., †TFe); lingering singles were at L. Texoma, Grayson 11 Apr (RR) and Matagorda Bay, Calhoun 20 May (BFR). A count of 64 Common Loons at Lake O' the Pines, Marion 16 Mar (TFe) was impressive, while another lingered until 15 May (GE) in Bell. A first for Brazos was a pair of Least Grebes discovered in late May (FS, AK; ph.). The Red-necked Grebe reported in the fall at Kurth L., Angelina remained until 4 Mar (*fide* DWo). Closer inspection of L. Buchanan in recent winters has shown a healthy population of wintering *Aechmophorus* grebes; a high count of 23 was made 8 Mar (TFe). A Clark's Grebe was watched at length on a small pond in Amarillo, Randall 5 May (KS).

A pelagic trip off South Padre I., Cameron 21 May netted one Audubon's Shearwater, one Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, along with 2 unidentified storm-petrels and 4 Masked Boobies (BMc, JA et al.). Rarely reported from the Panhandle in recent years, 2 American Bitterns were heard "pumping" at the Gene Howe W.M.A., Hemphill 31 Mar (DCh, JEl). An imm. Great White Heron was at Texas City, Galveston 23 May+ (GP, † m.ob.), representing only the 3rd individual of this subspecies to be documented in Texas, although there have been a number of reports dating back to the 1930s. Westward-wandering Little Blue Herons included one at Rio Grande Village, Brewster 1 Apr (m.ob) and 2 subads. in Amarillo, Randall 12 May (KS). Tricolored Herons of note included one wandering inland to Richland Creek W.M.A., Freestone on the early date of 4 Apr (PB), another in El Paso 8 May+ (JKi), and a record-late bird at White Rock L., Dallas 16 May (KC, MM). Two Reddish Egrets were along Onion Cr. at McKinney Falls S.P., Travis 29 May (DaS, BMe). Casual in spring in ne. Texas, a White Ibis was noted in Dallas 31 Mar (MFO). Small numbers of Glossy Ibis at Anahuac, Chambers through the period suggested possible nesting (DSa). Glossy Ibis in more unexpected locations included singles at Laguna Atascosa, Cameron 3–9

**SA** The Corpus Christ landfill, *Nueces* continued to be home to a spectacular assortment of gulls. It is difficult to determine which of the many candidates would head the list of rarities present during the season! Certainly among the candidates was a second-winter **Black-tailed Gull** seen only 6 Mar (†WS, †B&JR) and representing the 2nd record for the state. Among the other one-day wonders were 2 separate ad. Herring Gulls that showed the characteristics of the Asian subspecies *vegae*, one there 4 Mar (ph., †MR) and the other 10 Apr (ph., †WS). The apparent **Yellow-legged Gull** present during the winter remained until 15 Apr (†WS, MR, m.ob.); it was joined by another bird that showed structural and plumage characters of a **Yellow-legged Gull** of the mainland w. European taxon *michahellis* 4 Mar (†WS, †MR)! The **Western Gull x Glaucous-winged Gull** discovered there during the winter was last reported 9 Apr (WS). Continuing the excellent showing of Thayer's Gulls during the winter were 3 here, including a fourth-winter bird 4 Mar–9 Apr (†PH, †WS, m.ob.), a second-winter 4–24 Mar (MR, †WS, m.ob.) and a first-winter 22 Apr (†MRet). A first-summer California Gull present 9 Apr was also exceptional here (B&JR, WS).

Apr (DR, ph.), near Los Fresnos, *Cameron* 4 May (AE, ph.), and at Toyah L., *Reeves* 9 May (DSa). It seems Wood Storks arrive "early" each year, and this spring was no exception: "a few" were at Bacliff, *Galveston* 4 Apr (fide WB) and at Matagorda Bay, *Matagorda* 12 May (BFR), 2 were at *Brazoria* 20 May (JWi), 95 were along the Trinity R., *Liberty* 25 May (DWo, JF), and 170 were seen overhead at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone* the following day (CSh). Causing quite a stir was a subad. **Greater (Caribbean) Flamingo** at the Texas City dike, *Galveston* 20–31 May (†MAu, DwP, m.ob.). This cooperative bird was viewed and photographed by hundreds, including local television and newspaper reporters, and represents just the 5th record for the state. Care was taken to rule out the Eurasian taxon (*roseus*), which has been photographed free-flying in Texas as recently as Jan 1998 (an escapee) and which is now split by most authorities from American *ruber*.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Lingering geese included a Greater White-fronted at *Brazoria* until 17 Apr (TC), a Snow at Presidio, *Presidio* 20 Apr (ML), and a Ross's at Fort Worth, *Tarrant* 3 May (DF). A male Eurasian Wigeon was at L. Rita Blanca, *Hartley* 23 Apr (†RMa). Cinnamon Teal were found on three occasions in n.-cen. Texas, where the species is a very rare migrant. A late-departing Canvasback tarried on Meadow L., *Williamson* 8–23 May (TFe). Two Surf Scoters and 3 Long-tailed Ducks were at Red Bluff L., *Reeves/Loving* 7 Mar (SD), the latter remaining through 19 Mar (HL). The Long-tailed Duck in Amarillo, *Potter*, first reported in the fall, remained until 21 May (m.ob.). A very high count of 136 Common Goldeneyes was made at Red Bluff L. 7 Mar (SD), and a female of this species was at Imperial Res., *Pecos* on the late date of 6 May (EC). A count of 35 Hooded Mergansers at San Bernard, *Brazoria* was a good number for the coast (RWe). A high count of 98 Red-breasted Mergansers was made at L. Buchanan, *Llano* 13 Mar (TFe).

A Swallow-tailed Kite at Buffalo Springs L., *Lubbock* 20 Apr (JHe, JJo) provided a first spring record for nw. Texas. A Cooper's Hawk in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 21 May (KS) was intriguingly late. Of greater interest was a nesting attempt by Cooper's Hawks at White Rock L., *Dallas* (KC, CR); although no fledglings were observed, this marked a county first. A Red-shouldered Hawk on a nest near Dickens, *Dickens* 8 May (B&SRa) represents a very rare nesting record for the South Plains region. Single Broad-winged Hawks, always noteworthy in the Trans-Pecos, were spotted in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 14 Apr (CEd, JGe) and near Esperanza, *Hudspeth* 24 May (BU), the latter a county first. Excitement was generated this season when a male



This subadult Great White Heron (the *occidentalis* subspecies of Great Blue Heron) was discovered at Texas City on 23 May 2004 (here 28 May) while the Greater Flamingo was present. Despite numerous reports of Great Whites over the years in Texas, this was just the third to be documented by photograph. Photograph by Janet Rathjen.

Short-tailed Hawk present at Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* 31 Mar–27 May (†CBe, RWh ph., m.ob.) was found to be paired with a female Swainson's Hawk. The pair engaged in copulation and nest-building,

but the nest tree blew down during a strong storm in late May. A dark-morph Short-tailed Hawk was at Bentsen, *Hidalgo* 6–9 Apr (†JA). A Zone-tailed Hawk in Walker 6 May (†DPA) was the 3rd reported from this East Texas county. Two Crested Caracaras in Hood 17 Apr (DDC) were the first in that county since 1976.

## RAILS THROUGH TERNS

A Sora heard at Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend* 31 May (JSt) was the latest ever detected for the U.T.C. A Purple Gallinule at Richland Creek W.M.A. 20 Apr (HH, CSh) was the 2nd for *Freestone*, the first being at the same location in 1999. Six Whooping Cranes spent the night along the Brazos R., *Parker* 10 Apr (DHa). Providing a rare spring record, a Black-bellied Plover was at Nacogdoches 24 Apr (MHW). American Golden-Plovers were noted in *Midland* 24 Apr and 5 May (RMS) and *Throckmorton*, *Stephens*, and *Baylor* on 4 Apr (BGI, GC), the latter three all county firsts. Carpenter made an impressive count of 200+ Snowy Plovers at Imperial Res., *Pecos* in early May, including a number of chicks. A lingering Piping Plover was noted along Follet's I., *Brazoria* 9 May (DVe). An impressive concentration of 400–500 Mountain Plovers was discovered at Dell City, *Hudspeth* 8 Mar (SD). An overdue first for *Mason* was provided by a

Black-necked Stilt 24 Apr (DF, BoF). A visit to Imperial Res., *Pecos* by Carpenter 2 May produced a Marbled Godwit, a Sanderling, and a Semipalmated Sandpiper, a nice trio for the Trans-Pecos. A flock of 26 Willets was noted at the Kerr W.M.A., *Kerr* 26 Apr (TG). Conditions must have been right for Hudsonian Godwits this season, as large numbers appeared along the coastal prairies, with 250+ in *Waller* 7 May (CHa et al.) and 100+ around Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 8 May (AC, MC). Notable inland sightings of this species included one in *Midland* 15 May and 2 others nearby 25 May (BL). A concentration of 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers 21–30 May at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* (TC, CTL) was certainly newsworthy. Two Least Sandpipers at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 23 May (CTL) were late, and a Baird's Sand-

piper at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* 7 Mar (JSt) was the 2nd earliest record for the U.T.C. Six Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Comfort, *Kendall* 1 May (ES) provided a rare Hill Country record. A snipe at Village Creek, *Tarrant* 26 Mar–7 Apr: exhibited underwing covert markings believed to be consistent with, and possibly characteristic of, Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) (ph., †MR et al.); excellent in-flight photographs by Reid were posted on the Internet and became the starting point for discussions of snipe identification that are ongoing even months later. Twenty Wilson's Phalaropes at Bryan Beach 30 May was a good number for that late date (CTL). A Red-necked Phalarope with Wilson's at Comfort 1 May (ES) provided a nice spring record. A Black-headed Gull was at L. Wright Patman 14–17 Mar (†MD, CM et al.).

California Gulls a bit out of range included singles at *Lubbock* 24 Mar–1 Apr (BBe, AF et al.) and at L. Buchanan, *Llano* 8–13 Mar (TFe). A first-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull was also found in *Lubbock* 14 Mar (AF). This was a good spring for Glaucous Gulls, with single birds noted at six coastal locations scattered between Galveston and Boca Chica. Two Caspian Terns were seen at L. Worth, *Tarrant* 13 May (MR), providing a rare spring record for ne. Texas. A very early migrant Forster's Tern was at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 7 Mar (SD). A good count of 19 Bridled Terns was made on the 21 May pelagic trip out of South Padre I. (BMc, JA).

### PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Two Common Ground-Doves at *Lubbock* 31 May (AF) were the first reported on the South Plains since 1996. Also of interest was the discovery of this species in *Throckmorton* 4 Apr (GC, BGi) for the first time. Early caprimulgids on the U.T.C. included a Common Nighthawk at River Oaks, *Harris* 19 Mar (DSa) and a Chuck-will's-widow on w. Galveston I. 5 Mar (JSt). Two vocalizing Whip-poor-wills in *Austin* 9 Apr (SRu, BiB) represented a new country record. Two Chimney Swifts in *Pearland*, *Brazoria* 9 Mar (SP) were the earliest ever for the U.T.C. Silent *Chaetura* swifts, believed to be Chimneys, were reported in *El Paso* 1 (JKi) & 21 May (BZ).

A male Magnificent Hummingbird was

photographed 4 Apr in *El Paso* (EJ), where the species is considered accidental. The wintering Black-chinned Hummingbird in *Nacogdoches* remained until 6 Mar (CEI). Spring migrant Rufous Hummingbirds were noted at Panther Junction, *Brewster* 11 Mar (MFI), *El Paso* 18 Mar (BZ), and in the Davis Mts. 21 Mar (M&ME). Equally noteworthy were lingering Rufous Hummingbirds in *Colleyville* 2 Mar (BTo) and *Bedford* 19 Mar, both *Tarrant* (RD). Adding to the already substantial number of records of Allen's Hummingbirds from the U.T.C. was one banded in *Angleton*, *Brazoria* on 5 Mar (CBr, JWi). A Green Kingfisher on the San Gabriel R., *Williamson* 18 Apr (TFe, BSt) was significantly e. of previous



Painted Redstarts have a tendency to wander in the spring, and there have been several Texas records well away from the more expected locations in far western Texas. This bird at Corpus Christi on 12 April 2004 provided a second record for Nueces County. Photograph by Martin Reid.

sightings in the county and out in the Blackland Prairies.

Several Lewis's Woodpeckers lingered from the past winter's excellent showing in the state, including singles at *Balmorhea*, *Reeves* 14 Mar (ML), *El Paso* 12 Apr (JPa), and *Balcones Canyonlands* 20 Apr (CSe). Others were discovered at L. Buchanan, *Burnet* 27 Mar (LL) and in *Mason* 14–22 Apr (DF, BoF). Other *Melanerpes* of note included a Red-headed Woodpecker in *Mason* 20 Apr (DF) and 2 at South Llano R., *Kimble* 26–27 Apr, accompanied by an Acorn Woodpecker on the first date (RH). Early by three weeks was a Red-headed Woodpecker at *Palo Duro*, *Armstrong* 1 Apr (KS). Well w. of normal was a Red-bellied Woodpecker in *Midland* 11 Mar (AWi). Very late Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included a female in *Big Bend's* Boot Canyon 4 May (EC) and another in *Williamson* 15

May (BSt, TFe). Rounding a rather spectacular day of woodpecker sightings at South Llano River S.P. 26 Apr were 2 Downies (RH).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH JAYS

A Greater Pewee was briefly observed (and heard) in the cen. Davis Mts. 21 May (†TG). A Western Wood-Pewee was seen and heard on w. Galveston I. 7 Apr (†JSt), providing just the 6th record for the U.T.C. *Empidonax* flycatchers appeared to be in short supply in Panhandle and South Plains this season; Floyd reported only 4 Pacific-slope/Cordilleran, and Seyffert saw but 3, plus a Least! For the 6th consecutive year,

#### Buff-breasted Flycatchers

returned to the cen. Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 8 Apr+ (†ML et al.). A first for *Palo Duro Canyon S.P.* was a singing Black Phoebe found 23 May (KS). Eastern Phoebes again nested in *College Station* (ER), and another pair was found consistently during late May in *Kurten*, *Brazos* (SW). A single Vermilion Flycatcher was at L. McClellan, *Gray* 29 Mar (EK, LJa) and a pair at *Buffalo Lake*, *Randall* 7 Apr (Ju, GF). A pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers returned to *Boot Canyon*, *Brewster* 4 May+ (†EC, m.ob.), marking the 4th consecutive year this species has occupied a territory at this location. Two early Great Crested Flycatchers were noted in

*Houston*, *Harris* 14 Mar (JHi). Two Great Kiskadees present during the winter at the *Katy Prairie*, *Harris* continued through the period, and nest-building was observed 16 Mar (FC), but no indication of success was reported. Farther w., kiskadees made news in *Big Bend*, with singles at *Santa Elena Canyon* 28 Apr (T&JKa) and *Hot Springs* 28 May (Rka, JRe). A Tropical Kingbird documented on w. Galveston I. 25 Apr (†JSt) was just the 3rd for the U.T.C. A calling Couch's Kingbird was documented in *Brazos* 5–20 Apr (KA), providing a county first. A Western Kingbird in *Angelina* 25 Apr (JF, SSt) was the earliest spring record for this rare migrant to East Texas. An Eastern Kingbird on w. Galveston I. 10 Mar was the earliest ever for the U.T.C. by five days (JSt). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near

Galcrest, Galveston 10 Mar (SL) was early.

A rarity west of the Pecos R., a White-eyed Vireo was at Smith Spring, Guadalupe Mountains N.P., Culberson 8 May (ML, EC). Beating the previous early arrival date by four days, a Black-capped Vireo was heard at Fort Hood, Bell 12 Mar (fide RKO). A singing Yellow-throated Vireo was at Buffalo Lake 15 May (PT et al.); one at Quintana, Brazoria 14 May was apparently a very late migrant (RWe, TC). A rarity for the Panhandle was a Philadelphia Vireo at Buffalo Lake 15 May (BPi et al.); 6 in one day in Arapaho Park, Dallas 11 May (BGi) was an unexpected number. For the 7th consecutive year, a Black-whiskered Vireo was reported from the U.T.C., this one was at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 28 Apr–4 May (†WRi et al.). Perhaps also to be expected was a Yellow-Green Vireo near San Benito, Cameron 30 Apr–3 May (†BFR).

A Blue Jay made a return visit to the El Paso Zoo 14 Apr (JKi). A pair of Tamaulipas Crows tending a nest was discovered in Brownsville, Cameron 2 May+ (†JB, m.ob.). These birds successfully fledged one young and have been the only representatives of this species known to occur in the United States in 2004. Fish Crows wandered e. to Hagerman, Grayson 3 Apr (RR) and Old Sabine Bottom W.M.A., Smith 5 May (DPo), both county firsts. Two apparently territorial Horned Larks in extreme n. El Paso 4 May were presumed nesting (BZ); the species remains unconfirmed as a breeder in the county.

## SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A record-early Cliff Swallow appeared in Midland 8 Mar (RMS). Bushtits made news: the birds reported in Midland during the winter remained until 24 Apr (RMS), and 2 at Fort Hood, Bell 21 May (JRe) provided an overdue county first. Nuthatches made unexpected appearances on the coastal prairies, with a Red-breasted at Port O'Connor, Calhoun 15 Mar (BFR) and 2 White-breasted in extreme s. Liberty 21 May (BTi). A lingering Brown Creeper was in El Paso 4 Apr (JPa). Quite surprising was a Cactus Wren in Port O'Connor, Calhoun 11 May (BFR), nearly 80 km from the nearest known population. Carolina Wrens were found in atypical Big Bend locations, with singles at Boot Canyon 27 Apr–8 May (MKo, EC et al.) and Sam Nail Ranch 30 Apr (MKo). A good find was a Sedge Wren in Lubbock 13 Mar (AF). Extremely late was a Golden-crowned Kinglet in Lubbock 8 May (PK). An Eastern Bluebird lingered in El Paso until 18 Mar (JPa), providing the latest local spring record. The bird of the season was the male Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus mexicanus*) discovered in Pharr, Hidalgo 27 May+ (†RB,

ALW, m.ob.). The species is an abundant summer resident of s. Tamaulipas, Mexico, only about 240 km s. of Brownsville. If accepted, this would constitute the first Texas and U.S. record. A total of 10 Gray-cheeked Thrushes was reported from n.-cen. Texas, well above the norm for this rare migrant. An early Wood Thrush was at Corpus Christi, Nueces 25 Mar (LJo). Gray Catbirds were found building a nest at Spring, Harris 27 May (D&SM); more information will follow in the Nesting Season report. A lingering Brown Thrasher remained near Fort Davis, Jeff Davis 19 Mar–7 Apr (T&CH). The Blue Mockingbird present irregularly since the fall in Pharr, Hidalgo was documented this season as well (ALW, †RTi, m.ob.).

Single Blue-winged Warblers showed up in the w. portions of the state at Buffalo Lake 5 May (LN), providing on the 5th sighting for the Panhandle, and at Comfort, Kendall 15 May (ES). Noteworthy Golden-winged Warbler sightings included singles at Prairie Creek Park, Collin/Dallas 30 Apr–2 May (JaH et al.), at Big Bend's Sam Nail Ranch 5 May (MAu, H&RJ), at Buffalo Lake 16 May (RSc), and at Arbor Hills Preserve, Denton 17 May (PP). Westward-wandering Tennessee Warblers were found in Amarillo, Potter 21 Apr (KS) and El Paso 1 May (JPa). A Virginia's Warbler was at Buffalo Lake 26 Apr (KS). A Lucy's Warbler made a rare appearance in El Paso 9 Apr (JPa). Northern Parulas were found w. of normal in the Guadalupe Mts., Culberson 6 May (BPe), Palo Duro Canyon S.P. 14 May (KS), and Canyon, Randall 25 May (CF, LS). The population of Tropical Parulas along the Pecos R. and Devils R. continues to increase, with multiple territorial males reported from Independence Creek, Pecos (fide JKa) and at Devils River S.N.A. 16 Apr (KB, TG, ML). Two late-migrating Yellow Warblers were noted at Quintana, Brazoria 31 May (DVe). A male Yellow Warbler of the *erithachorides* ("Mangrove Warbler") group was well documented at Boca Chica, Cameron 18 Apr+ (†JA, m.ob.). Eastern Warblers of note in nw. Texas included 2 Chestnut-sideds at Buffalo Lake 23 May (DSm), a Magnolia there 16 May (BPi, RSc), and a Black-throated Blue at Lubbock 23 May (AF). A very early Magnolia Warbler was found along the Trinity R., Tarrant 17 Mar (DaP). A late Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Quintana 19 May (IH). A Black-throated Gray Warbler in San Antonio, Bexar 23 Apr (MCr, RA) was e. of usual range. A Golden-cheeked Warbler at Cedar Hill S.P., Dallas 26–27 Mar was n. of normal (fide CSa). A single Blackburnian Warbler was at Muleshoe N.W.R., Bailey 22 May (BBe), out of place and somewhat late, while a Yellow-throated Warbler at Web-

berville, Travis 19 May (BSt) was very late for that area. Prairie Warblers made news in a variety of ways with w. migrants noted at Fort Hood, Coryell 22 Mar (DCi) and Austin, Travis 12 May (RM), an early migrant at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 15 Mar (AM), and an apparently a very late migrant at High I. 29 May (KE). Palm Warblers of note included singles at Fort Hood, Bell 16 Apr (LC), a county first, Buffalo Lake 26 Apr (KS), Sea Rim S.P., Jefferson 3 May (AM), and Midland 15 May (JM).

The spring of 2004 saw an amazing migration of Blackpoll Warblers, with higher numbers than normal reported in much of the e. third of the state. Singles were also found in Brazos 27 Apr (JHu), for a 2nd county record, in Milam 12 May (CD), for a county first, and at Midland 17 May (JM). A very late Black-and-white Warbler was noted on w. Galveston I. 31 May (DVe), while a Swainson's at High I. 28 Mar (DVe, DQ) was the 3rd earliest ever for the U.T.C. Westward-wandering Worm-eating Warblers included singles at Buffalo Lake (BPi) and Comfort, both 15 May (ES), and another at Big Bend's Laguna Meadows 26 May (RH). More e. warblers found in nw. Texas were an Ovenbird at Buffalo Lake 25 May (KS) and a Louisiana Waterthrush in Lubbock 21 Apr (AF). A Kentucky Warbler banded in Houston, Harris 16 May was apparently a very late migrant (DVe). Mourning Warblers are very rare migrants in the w. half of the state; this season, singles were noted at in Lubbock 2 May (BRa) and at Buffalo Lake 16 May (BPi). An *Oporornis* thought to be a Connecticut Warbler was carefully studied at South Padre I., Cameron 25 Apr (†JB ph., †DHo et al.). Another late migrant on the U.T.C. was a Common Yellowthroat in Houston 16 May (DVe). The Gray-crowned Yellowthroat discovered during the winter at Sabal Palm continued through the season. Hooded Warblers made a very good showing in the w. reaches of the state, with singles in El Paso 23 Mar–2 Apr (JKi, ph.), Midland 31 Mar (BL), Amarillo, Randall 7 May (RSc), the Basin of Big Bend 31 May (JM), and McKittrick Canyon, Culberson 31 May (DO). A Red-faced Warbler was documented from Boot Springs, Brewster 27 Apr (†MKo). It was a good spring for Painted Redstarts in the Trans-Pecos, with singles in El Paso 30 Mar (JPa), near Presidio in late Mar (EJ), and in McKittrick Canyon also in late Mar (JWo). This species also returned 6 Apr+ to the Chisos Mts., Brewster (m.ob.), where three pairs were present. More noteworthy was a Painted Redstart at Corpus Christi, Nueces 12 Apr (TSc, MR ph. m.ob.) for a 2nd county record.

## TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Hepatic Tanagers are rarely detected as migrants, so lone females in El Paso on 3 (BZ) & 27 May (JPa) were noteworthy. An early Summer Tanager was on Galveston I. 22 Mar (SL), while a male Western Tanager in Washington 5 Mar (DVo) provided a rare spring record for the county. A bit e. of typical range, a Spotted Towhee lingered in Washington 6–28 Mar (DVo). An Eastern Towhee was found in Lubbock 7 Mar (AF). A Canyon Towhee in Throckmorton 9 Apr (BGi et al.) was e. of expected range. Seven Grasshopper Sparrows in Rusk 10 May (JPi) made a good count for East Texas. An outstanding find was a Baird's Sparrow at Buffalo Lake 11 Apr (BPi). A lingering Le Conte's Sparrow was in Comfort, Kendall 2 May (ES). A Song Sparrow 4 May (KA) was late for Brazos. The latest Harris's Sparrow reported during the season was in Denton, Denton 26 Apr (PP). A White-crowned Sparrow at Arapaho Park, Dallas 25 May (BGi) provided the latest record for n.-cen. Texas. A Gray-headed Junco photographed in Austin, Travis 15 Mar (JI) provided a very rare cen. Texas record. Lingering Chestnut-collared Longspurs in cen. Texas included singles in w. Bexar 3–7 Apr (BD, m.ob.) and at the Devils Sinkhole, Edwards 13 Apr (ML). A well-described Snow Bunting was reported from Lipscomb 2 Apr (DCh); if accepted, it will be only the 6th record for the state and the 2nd for the Panhandle.

A pair of Northern Cardinals turned up 30 May+ in El Paso (BZ), where the species is very rare and not known to nest. A westward-wandering Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in El Paso 28 May (JPa), while easterly Black-headed Grosbeaks were noted in Burnet 25 Apr (TFe) and San Antonio, Bexar 30 Apr (GLi). An amazing flock of 23 Lazuli Buntings was found near Sarita, Kenedy 26 Apr (BFR); this is unprecedented along the Texas coast, where they are normally found singly amidst Indigo Bunting flocks. An early Indigo Bunting was in Houston, Harris 18 Mar (OW). A Varied Bunting was at Boca Chica 2 May (BFR), but far more unexpected was another on w. Galveston I. 21 Apr (JSt, BSm, ph.). An early Painted Bunting was at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 4 Apr (AM).

A male Yellow-headed Blackbird in Nacogdoches 26 Apr (RTr) was a nice find, as were 15 at Richland Creek W.M.A., Frestone 29 Apr (HH, CSh) and one in Waller 2 May (FC). A rare find in the cen. Trans-Pecos, a Common Grackle was in Alpine, Brewster 25 Apr (ML). Details of a Shiny Cowbird reported at Comfort, Kendall 14 May (TES) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C. A Bronzed Cowbird wandered to Brazos 6 Apr (ER). A nice find was a male Hooded

Oriole in w. Hays 29 May (BRe). A very early migrant was the Baltimore Oriole in Smith 1 Apr (TP). A male Baltimore Oriole remained at Lubbock throughout the period (AF, m.ob.). A male Scott's Oriole wandered just off the Edwards Plateau to e. Guadalupe 20 May (SSc) for a county first. A few Purple Finches lingered in East Texas until 17 Mar (DWO, MHW), after a lackluster winter season for the species in Texas. A male Purple Finch at Sea Rim S.P., Jefferson 2 May (JHa, SM et al.) was bizarre. Red Crossbills have now been present in the cen. Davis Mts. for more than a year, but on 10 May, a pair was observed building a nest (HL, CED, PS), a significant event for both Texas and the Davis Mts.

## UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

The following Texas Bird Records Review Species were reported without documentation: a Brown Booby off High I. 2 Apr; up to 2 female Barrow's Goldeneyes at Red Bluff Res., Reeves/Loving 14–16 Mar; a Short-tailed Hawk at Lost Maples, Bandera 3–26 Apr; single Thayer's Gulls at San Luis Pass, Galveston 11 Mar and Sea Rim S.P., Jefferson 15 Mar; a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Santa Ana, Hidalgo 30 Apr; and a Yellow-faced Grassquit at Boca Chica, Cameron 21 Apr.

**Corrigendum:** The Black Phoebe at New Braunfels, Comal 19 Jul 2003 should have been attributed to GSw (N.A.B. 57: 516).

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