

Spring brought below-average precipitation in much of the western half of the state, even with the normal severe spring storms on the High Plains. Conditions were closer to what is expected farther east. In the eastern half of the state, migration appeared to be typical of that of recent years. There were a few strong frontal passages that produced spectacular fallouts of migrants along the coast, the most notable occurring on 25 April. A significant fallout of shorebirds and passerines occurred in Austin on 8 May. June Osborne and Tim Fennell remarked that the spring migration had a more eastern component than usual through the Hill Country. Interestingly, western species were well represented on the Upper Texas Coast, with many Western Tanagers, Clay-colored Sparrows, Lark Sparrows, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds in particular.

Out west, Hewetson reported that songbird migration through all of northwestern Texas was wretched, with the exceptions of Tennessee Warblers and the cardinals. *Contopus* and *Empidonax* flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, and tanagers were low in diversity and very low in numbers. Similarly, the Trans-Pecos had a generally lackluster migration, with dry and windy weather through most of the season.

### LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Three Red-throated Loons at L. Texoma, Grayson 18 & 24 Mar (BGi, DHi) were the only ones reported. Single Pacific Loons were found at L. Buchanan, Llano 14 Mar (TFe), L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt 28 May (MWh), Bolivar Flats, Galveston 23 Apr (CCo, NBl et al.), and throughout the period at Offat's Bayou, Galveston (m.ob.). Least Grebes continue to make a good showing on the Upper Texas Coast, with birds noted at four locations. More unexpected was a Least Grebe at Lometa Res., Lampasas 15 May (RKO). Fifteen Western Grebes were noted 14 Mar at L. Buchanan, Llano (TFe), where they have become annual. The Brown Booby at Port Aransas from the winter season remained through at least 4 Mar (†m.ob.). A high count of 350 Northern Gannets was seen from Quintana, Brazoria 6 Mar (CBr, OBr). An impressive 1300 American White Pelicans were migrating over Copperas Cove, Coryell 15 Apr (RKO). Unusual for Lubbock, a Neotropical Cormorant was at Maxey Park 6 Feb–3 Apr (AH).

Noteworthy Tricolored Herons were singles observed at Ft. Hood, Bell 29 Apr (RKO, GE) and in Lubbock 5 May (CSt, AH, BW). A White Ibis in Lubbock 26–27 Apr (ph. BW, AH, JST) provided a first record for the South Plains. A single Glossy Ibis was at Hornsby Bend, Travis 26 Apr (EC), while another Glossy Ibis was at Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarrant 10 May (GCo), the

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only inland reports of this species. Three Black Vultures near the Rio Grande 36 km n. of Presidio, Presidio 9 Apr (ML) were farther upriver than is usual.

### WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

A single Fulvous Whistling-Duck accompanied a Black-bellied Whistling Duck in Brazos 21 Apr & 24 May (KA); 3 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks made a brief appearance at Hornsby Bend, Travis 11 May (SBr, EC). A single imm. Tundra Swan remained near Spur, Dickens until 15 Mar (AH). A male Eurasian Wigeon in Lubbock 3 Apr (†AH, ph. TS, m.ob.) provided the 2nd record for the South Plains. A female Redhead with 8 young was at a Ft. Stockton, Pecos pond 18 May (ML, JK) for a rare Regional breeding record. The outstanding duck of the season was a first-year male King Eider found at Bolivar Flats, Galveston 10 Apr–9 May (†KF, m.ob.), providing the 2nd documented record for the state. The only Black Scoter reported was in ne. Aransas Bay, Aransas 17

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May (MDo, MT). Likewise, there was only one report of Long-tailed Duck: a single bird at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 23 Apr (CCo, NBl et al.). A pair of Hooded Mergansers in s. *Parker* lingered until at least 12 May (BFr), perhaps an indicator of local breeding. A small pond on Padre Island N.S., *Kleberg* hosted a Masked Duck 6 Mar–18 Apr (†MCo, m.ob.).

Confirmed breeding of Swallow-tailed Kites in the state has been rare, so the discovery of three nests in nw. *Jasper* 22 May (PHi) was exciting. A White-tailed Kite was near Utopia, *Uvalde* 20–25 Mar (BR, MHe), while another was n. of Brackettville, *Kinney* 17 Apr (TH). A White-tailed Kite also put in an appearance 24 Apr at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* (JSp), where the species has appeared sporadically since 2001. Mississippi Kites were detected several weeks earlier than usual in many areas across the state, with the earliest individual near Houston 1 Mar (CWh). Individuals of this species were also noted in late May in *Bastrop*, *Williamson*, *Angelina*, and *Cass*, leading to speculation of possible nesting in those counties. A Bald Eagle nest in w. *Bell* produced a single fledging by the end of the period (RPi); another nest was noted in *Armstrong* 1 Apr (BP) for a rare Panhandle occurrence. Holderman and Hobson conducted a raptor survey in the cen. Trans-Pecos 17 May and noted 7 Northern Harriers still present near Valentine. An ad. Northern Goshawk was observed in *Garland*, *Dallas* 21 Mar (†MWh), and an imm. was studied near Pearsall, *Frio* 26 Apr (†MR). Gray Hawks were present at known locations in Big Bend and Ft. Davis, though a single bird in *Alpine*, *Brewster* 2 May (PSP) was more unusual. A Common Black-Hawk put in a rare appearance in *Lubbock* 18 May (DSH). A Roadside Hawk present at Santa Ana during the winter remained until 9 Mar (m.ob.). Single out-of-range Red-shouldered Hawks were seen at different locations in *Hardeman* 18 Mar (AH, AvH) and 11 Apr (SWe). A species rarely detected as a migrant in w. Texas, a Broad-winged Hawk was at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend 28 Apr (JD); another was at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso* 28 May (JPa). Light-morph Short-tailed Hawks, or possibly the same bird, were documented near Utopia, *Uvalde* 22 Apr (†MH) and Lost Maples, *Bandera* 29 Apr (†CBe). A migrating Swainson's Hawk in *Nacogdoches* 1 May (MHW) was a first for the area in several years. A Ferruginous Hawk nw. of *Alpine* 17 May (JH, DHo) was extremely late.

### QUAIL THROUGH TERNS

Gambel's Quail were reported from two lo-

cations at Big Bend N.P. during May; however, these birds may have come from the feral population at Black Gap. More exciting news from Big Bend was the rediscovery of **Montezuma Quail** in the Chisos Mts. Holderman noted signs of the quail along the South Rim during survey work in 2004; this spring, Sorola confirmed 2 males 14 May, and 2–3 males were in the same area 28 May (ph. DHo, RS, SSo). These birds could be recent colonists from Mexico or remnants



This immature male King Eider lingered at Bolivar Flats and East Beach, Galveston, Texas from 10 April through 9 May 2005 (here 17 April), providing the second state record. Photograph by Erik Breden.

from the translocation schemes of the 1970s; it is also possible that a small population of this secretive species has always been present here.

At least 12 Black Rails were heard and seen at San Bernard, *Matagorda* 6 Apr (CBR, JWi), though only one individual could be detected a week later. A Purple Gallinule in *McLennan* 15 May (AP, J&CP) was unusual there. Eleven Black-bellied Plovers on Belton L., *Bell* 14 May (RPi) was a good number for cen. Texas. Four American Golden-Plovers near Sabinal, *Uvalde* 25 Mar (MHe) provided a rare area record. A single Piping Plover stopped 6–7 May at a *Swisher* playa (Bij, DSm), where the species is considered accidental. Mountain Plovers lingered well into the spring with 15 near *Tulia*, *Swisher* 5 Mar–5 May (JST) and 2 at the *Martinez Ranch*, *Donley* 23 Apr (BP). In n.-cen. Texas, Black-necked Stilts were noted as migrants in *Archer*, *Delta*, *Grayson*, and *Tarrant*, where the species is usually rare. An amazing count of 5127 Whimbrels at *Anahuac* N.W.R. 21 Apr (MaW, SLe) was taken as the birds flew to roost. A good find for *Midland* was a single Hudsonian Godwit 4–5 May (BL). Twenty-one Marbled Godwits was a high count at *L. Waco* 13 Apr

(FB, EH), while 26 near *Muleshoe* N.W.R., *Bailey* 6 Mar (MDL) was a more unusual count locally. Some 3500 White-rumped Sandpipers on a single pond at *Brazoria* N.W.R., *Brazoria* 28 May made an impressive sight (CTL, RW). A group of 8 Short-billed Dowitchers was noted near *Crosbyton*, *Crosby* 15 Apr (AH), providing an infrequent spring record. Breeding evidence of American Woodcocks in cen. Texas is limited, so the discovery of a nest with one nestling at *Ft. Hood*, *Bell* 10 Mar (ph. DSp) was significant. A late woodcock was at *Hornsby Bend*, *Travis* 16–23 Apr (EC).

Jaeger sightings were sparse this spring: single Pomarines were noted at *Follett's I.*, *Galveston* 9 Apr (JSt) and at *Sea Rim*, *Jefferson* 26 Apr (SCo, MR). A Laughing Gull was found among *Franklin's Gulls* on *Belton L.*, *Bell* 14 May (RPi) and at *L. Tawakoni*, *Rains* 31 May (RKi). Two *Bonaparte's Gulls* near *Vega*, *Oldham* 26 Mar (SKe) represented a first county record. An ad. Herring Gull apparently of the subspecies *vegae* was photographed along *Brazoria* beaches 8–14 Mar (RW). Single ad. Thayer's Gulls were at *Follett's I.* 10 Mar (ph. MAu) and at *Elliott Landfill*, *Corpus Christi*, *Nueces* 1 Apr (WS, MR). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at the *L. Livingston Dam*, *Polk* 17 Mar (JF) was only the 3rd for the *Pineywoods* and the 2nd at this location. A Glaucous Gull lingered on the *Upper Texas Coast* at *East Beach/Bolivar Flats*, *Galveston* until 13 May (SF, WBU); another was at *Elliott Landfill*, *Corpus Christi*, *Nueces* 28 Feb–early Apr (MR). A puzzling first-year gull at *Elliott Landfill*, *Corpus Christi*, *Nueces* 18 Mar–early Apr (ph. MR, WS) appeared to be a Kelp Gull or hybrid of some sort. A first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake on the *Rio Grande* at the *San Vicente Crossing*, *Big Bend N.P.* 28 Mar (ph. GC) furnished a first park record; the handful of previous *Trans-Pecos* records were all from late fall/winter, as expected. A Common Tern and a Least Tern at *White River L.*, *Crosby* 16 Apr (AH), provided rare *South Plains* records.

### PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Above-average numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos were noted along the coast, with at least five inland locations sharing the bounty. In *El Paso*, the *Rio Grande* is bordered by a security fence for several km, with only U.S. Border Patrol officers as regular visitors. This has created relatively undisturbed conditions for Burrowing Owls, and numerous pairs with young were noted in *Apr* and *May* (BZ). Four Long-eared Owls lingered in *Oldham* until 3 Apr (BP), while 2 lingered

in Potter until 12 Apr (RM). Above-average numbers of Lesser Nighthawks were seen on the Upper Texas Coast this spring. A Common Pauraque was calling near Uteley, *Bastrop* 1–14 May (BFR). A Chuck-will's-widow at Lubbock 5 May was a good find (AH).

Now regular visitors to the state, single Green Violet-ears were in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 19–20 Apr (tJMc), *San Saba* 20–21 Apr (ph., tJBy), and South Padre I., *Cameron* 7–10 May (tScC, BMc et al.). The 2 wintering (and banded) Broad-billed Hummingbirds left Houston 10 & 12 Mar (KK). A female White-eared Hummingbird was at a feeder in the Davis Mts. 27 May+ (ph., tM&ME), while a territorial Buff-bellied Hummingbird arrived in Sharpstown, *Harris* 16 Apr+ (DG). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were scarce on the South Plains, with the only one reported at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 14 May (BBE & AH). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 5 May (JSt) was the latest ever for the Upper Texas Coast. A very late female Rufous Hummingbird tarried until 6 May in nw. *Guadalupe* (MK, SSc et al.). An ad. male Allen's Hummingbird near Utopia, *Uvalde* 21 Mar (MHe) and one in the Davis Mts. 13–14 Mar (M&ME) represented unusual spring records.

The imm. male Elegant Trogon found 14 Jan at Frontera Audubon in Weslaco, *Hidalgo* continued to delight birders until at least 5 May (*vide* SKi). A pair of Ringed Kingfishers present through early Mar at Hornsby Bend showed up again on 10 Apr and remained through the period. The pair was seen hanging around a steep bank, but nesting was not confirmed (EC, BSt). Green Kingfishers appeared to be making a significant push into the Pineywoods, when a nesting pair was observed 5 Mar+ on Spring Creek, *Montgomery* (MH, J&GT et al.); the species was documented along the same creek in 2000. A pair of Green Kingfishers was observed flying into a hole in a canal bank in Sam Houston S.F., *Walker* 31 May (JWa, EP, KeB). A Red-headed Woodpecker at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 21 May (BBE) was well over 160 km w. of its normal haunts in the Region. A Red-bellied Wood-

pecker at Mitchell L. 6 Mar (SH) was a good find for San Antonio, while one at Thompson Grove, *Dallam* 3 Apr was more unexpected.

First found in Oct, the Downy Woodpecker at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso* was seen again 21–28 Apr (BZ, SB, LM). Pileated Woodpecker is considered rare in all seasons in n.-cen. Texas, so one seen in *Grayson* 21–25 Apr (WM) and another heard at the banding



Black-whiskered Vireo has become an annual visitor to the Upper Texas Coast in recent years. In 2005, one remained at Sabine Woods, Jefferson County from 24 (here 28) April through 27 May, a remarkably long stay. Photograph by Lynn Barber.

station of Heard Natural Science Museum, McKinney, *Collin* 31 Mar (MDu) represented noteworthy records.

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH RAVENS

A Greater Pewee present at Progresso Lakes, *Hidalgo* 2–3 Mar (tJD, tPD) furnished just the 2nd record for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. A very late Eastern Wood-Pewee was seen in *Dewitt* 31 May (DMu). Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Seabrook, *Harris* and w. Galveston I. 23 Apr were the earliest ever for the Upper Texas Coast (JSt). The wintering Cordilleran Flycatcher near Pearsall, *Frio* was last seen 24 Mar (MR). For the 7th consecutive year, Buff-breasted Flycatchers returned to the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 14 Apr+ (JK); a nest was discovered 8 May (tKBr, ML). Another singing male was reported from a nearby canyon 1 May (JG, JD) but could not be relocated later. Up to six pairs of Vermilion Flycatchers were on territory in w. *Bell* and e. *Burnet* this spring, with fledglings confirmed in *Bell* 22 May (RPi). The Dusky-capped Flycatcher present along Cannon Rd., *Hidalgo* from the winter lingered until

28 Mar (TFu). A Great Kiskadee was in Midland 13 & 20 Apr (D&JMe), while one was in nw. *Guadalupe* 19 Apr (EJ). Two Couch's Kingbirds seen building a nest 5–15 May near Damon, *Brazoria* represented a first nesting record for the Upper Texas Coast (RW, CBr, ph. MLi). Rare for the Edwards Plateau were 2 migrant Cassin's Kingbirds at Kickapoo Cavern, *Kinney* 11 May (ML). Single Western Kingbirds at Ryan L.,

*Angelina* 2 Apr (NBi, LDe) and *Rusk* 15 May (WBo, PHa) were noteworthy for East Texas, while an Eastern Kingbird near Ft. Davis, *Jeff Davis* 28 Apr (PSz) was a good find for West Texas.

A Black-capped Vireo at Dallas Audubon's Cedar Ridge Preserve, *Dallas* 12–26 Apr (MM et al.) provided the first county record since 1994. Reports of Hutton's Vireos continue to mount in the Hill Country. A probable breeding pair was at the Estrella Ranch, *Uvalde* 18 Mar (DMu), and a pair was observed building a nest near Garner S.P., *Uvalde* 29 Apr (DMu, BBE, TG). An apparent Cassin's Vireo was photographed on w. Galveston I. 8 May (STa). A lingering

Blue-headed Vireo in *Nacogdoches* 16 May established a new late date for the Pineywoods, while one at Packery Channel, Corpus Christi 30 May (AC, MCo) was exceedingly late. Seven Philadelphia Vireos were tallied by Muschalek in *Dewitt* 9 May; a late one was at Port Aransas, *Nueces* 30 May (ph. WS). A Red-eyed Vireo in *Nacogdoches* 18 Mar (JF, RTr, DW) established a new early arrival date for the Pineywoods. Single Yellow-green Vireos were at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 24 Apr–7 May (PH, BFR), Port Aransas, *Nueces* 28 Apr (MCo, AC), and the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* 5 May+ (JiP, m.ob.). A Black-whiskered Vireo found at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 24 Apr remained until 27 May (tMAu, CB et al.). Up to 8 Tamaulipas Crows were present in Brownsville, *Cameron* 17 Mar+ (JO, JA, tDB). A Fish Crow at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 21–25 Apr was a first for the refuge (WM). Common Ravens pushed eastward: a pair was observed building a nest in nw. *Guadalupe* 17–28 Mar (EJ, NBa), and 2 were in e. *Coryell* 7 May (RKO, S&CSu).

### SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Purple Martin at Ft. Hancock 25 Apr (SB, LM) was the 4th for *Hudspeth*. The number of nesting locations of Tree Swallow in cen. and e. Texas continues to grow: up to 20 were around nest boxes at Purtil Creek S.P., *Henderson* 20 Apr (RKi). A concentration of 500 Tree Swallows at Balmorhea L., *Reeves*

**SA** One of the best finds of the spring was a male Red-breasted Sapsucker at the Lawrence E. Woods Picnic Area in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 10–28 Mar (tScO, ph. MR, m.ob.). Black bases to the lower breast feathers suggest the s. subspecies *daggetti*. The bird was unobtrusive and could be hard to locate, but once found it permitted excellent views. Careful study of the bird in the field and from photographs revealed no signs of hybrid derivation. Surprisingly, this constitutes the 2nd Trans-Pecos and 3rd Texas record for the species.

12 Mar (ML) was an impressive count for the Trans-Pecos. A Violet-green Swallow at Beaumont, *Jefferson* 29 Apr (†JMu) was a Upper Texas Coast first. Continuing their march northward, 42 Cave Swallows were found near Justiceburg, *Garza* 17 Apr (AH, AvH), and 2 were in *Palo Pinto* 22 Mar (BFR). A juv. Cave Swallow at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 28 May (MWh) suggested local nesting. A Carolina Chickadee at Afton, *Dickens* 27 Mar (MRi, STo) was just w. of expected range. A pair of nesting Bushtits in Amarillo, *Randall* 12 Apr (BP) may be a first for the city. After the winter influx, Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered in many areas of the state, including a very late bird near Junction, *Kimble* 15 May (NBa). Late wrens included 3 House Wrens in *Hood* 13 May (BFR) and a Sedge Wren at Kickapoo Cavern, *Kinney* 11 May (ML). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher lingered at Quintana, *Brazoria* until 11 May (CBR, JWi).

Eight Western Bluebirds at L. Tanglewood, *Randall* 26 Mar (BP) represented a high count for the location. A window-killed Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush recovered on 28 May 2004 in Edinburg, *Hidalgo* was recently identified (*fide* SCa, DD; \*Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science). Some 18 reports of Veery, the majority between 7–9 May, were scattered across *Bastrop*, *Bell*, *Coryell*, *Guadalupe*, *Karnes*, and *Travis*—a very large number of reports of this normally scarce migrant. One at Lubbock 8 May (AH) was especially noteworthy. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were also noted in high numbers in the Central Prairies; singles at Lubbock (AH) and Utopia, *Uvalde* 10 May (MHe) were nice finds. Six Wood Thrushes in *Bell* 20 Apr (SSu) was an impressive count. The long-staying Clay-colored Robin at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* continued through the season, while the one at Big Bend was last reported 2 Apr (DO, COJ). The White-throated Robin in Weslaco, *Hidalgo* stayed until 23 Mar (*fide* SKi). An apparent breeding pair of American Robins was present at Quintana, *Brazoria* from late Apr+ (JA et al.). Late Sage Thrashers included singles at White River L., *Crosby* 15 Apr (AH, AvH) and near Bootleg, *Briscoe* 20 Apr (JST). The Blue Mockingbird sporadically seen in Pharr, *Hidalgo* surfaced again 14–26 Mar (AW, LB et al.). Two Sprague's Pipits at Temple, *Bell* 27 Apr, with one bird remaining through 4 May (RPi), were incredibly late.

One of the top finds of the season was an Olive Warbler at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 28–30 May (†SCo, ph.,

†MR et al.), providing the 7th record for the state. Westward-wandering Golden-winged Warblers included singles at Junction, *Kimble* 12 May (RH) and El Paso 14 May (LW). Tennessee Warblers made an exceptional showing in the Panhandle and South Plains: 7 were found 16 Apr–14 May. A Tennessee Warbler on w. Galveston I. 28 May (JSt) was very late. A Lucy's Warbler made a rare appearance in El Paso 2 May (BZ). A pair of Tropical Parulas at Hamilton Pool, *Travis* 11 May+ (SLo, RKa) was well away from known nesting areas. Continuing surveys in the mangroves surrounding the South Bay of the Laguna Madre have re-



Another spectacular find from the central Davis Mountains of Texas was this immature male Olive Warbler discovered in Jeff Davis County 28 May 2005. It remained in the vicinity until 30 May (here), providing the seventh record for Texas. Photograph by Lynn Barber.

vealed the presence of at least 15 territorial male Mangrove Warblers (†ScC et al.). As only a small portion of the available habitat has been surveyed, it is believed that the birds found represented only a fraction of a sizable population. Chestnut-sided Warblers of note included singles at Kickapoo Cavern, *Kinney* 11 May (ML) and Buffalo Lake N.W.R., *Randall* 28 May (KS). Two Magnolia Warblers at Buffalo Lake N.W.R. 14 May (KS) were unusual for the Panhandle. A Cape May Warbler along the South Llano R., *Kimble* 10 May (ph. BrB) provided the 2nd documented record of the species in the Hill Country. A well-described Golden-cheeked Warbler was discovered at Bentsen, *Hidalgo* 16 Mar (†RSn). A female Hermit Warbler at Packery Channel, *Nueces* 1 May (SCo, ph. MR) was an unexpected county first. A Yellow-throated Warbler was a good find at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 10–11 Apr (PK), but even more surprising was a singing male at the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 28 May+ (PR, DVo). A late Palm Warbler was on w. Galveston I. 17 May (JSt).

A very early Blackpoll Warbler made news at High I., *Galveston* 11 Apr (WBU), while others of note included a remarkable 6 at Atlanta S.P., *Cass* 10 May (MDi) and one at Buffalo Lake N.W.R. 14–16 May (KS). Unusual was a Prothonotary Warbler at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 28 Apr (B&JH), and Fennell discovered at least eight territories in the San Gabriel R. system, *Williamson*, expanding the known breeding range to the west. A Worm-eating Warbler at Lubbock 19 Apr (DSt) provided a rare South Plains record, while one at Quintana, *Brazoria* 20 May (RW) was late. An early Ovenbird was at High I. 25 Mar (DVe). A female Kentucky Warbler was at El Paso 11 May (LW). The Gray-crowned Yellowthroat remained through the season at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* (m.ob.). Single Hooded Warblers at Lubbock 24 Apr (AH) and Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 14 May (AH, BBe) were far west. An amazing record was provided by a Red-faced Warbler at the Packery Channel area of Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 6–10 May († ph. LA, †JMc, m.ob.), a first for the Coastal Bend—and one of few extralimital reports of the species anywhere. Painted Redstarts continued to be much in evidence in the Chisos Mts., *Brewster*, with pairs present in Boot Canyon and Pine Canyon (ML, BGi et al.). The Rufous-capped Warbler from the winter near Pearsall, *Frio* was last seen 21 Mar (MR), and another was well documented at Concan, *Uvalde* 1 May (ph., †RuT et al.).

### TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Scarlet Tanagers were seen in impressive numbers along the Upper Texas Coast and indeed through much of the e. half of the state. A Western Tanager near L. Belton, *Bell* 22 May (MiD) was a county first. A lingering Green-tailed Towhee was on the King Ranch, *Kenedy* 3 Apr (DMu). A Brewer's Sparrow at Buffalo Springs L., *Lubbock* 19 Mar (AH) seemed quite early for a migrant. Of interest was a single Black-throated Sparrow near Clairemont, *Kent* 16 Apr (AH), but 6 apparently territorial males at L. Alan Henry, *Garza* 17 Apr (AH, AvH) were well n. of the known breeding range of the species. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 12 Mar (AH) provided a rare South Plains record. The Harris's Sparrow that wintered on w. Galveston I. was last reported on 27 Mar (DP), while 3 in *Dickens*, *Dickens* 15 Apr (MLe) were late lingerers. A lone Chestnut-collared Longspur was near Ingleside, *San Patricio* 1

Apr (WS, MR). A flock of 18 Lapland Longspurs near Brownfield, Terry 13 Mar (AH) were pushing the expected late date for the species in the state.

**Crimson-collared Grosbeaks** holding on from the winter season included singles at Sabal Palm, Cameron until 7 Mar (JiP), Pharr, Hidalgo until 26 Mar (AW), and Weslaco, Hidalgo until 27 Apr (*fide* SKi); another was at different Weslaco location 14 Apr (†RR). Also of great interest were a male **Crimson-collared Grosbeak** at Rockport 18 Apr (DSc, MDo, †MT) and a female at Lafitte's Cove, Galveston 6–9 May (†LWM et al.), the latter providing the northernmost and easternmost record for the United States. A **Pyrrhuloxia** in w. Galveston 29 Mar (JSt) was surprising. A Black-headed Grosbeak in Cass 29 May (RB) provided a rare ne. Texas record. An early Blue Grosbeak was near Dickens, Dickens 28 Apr (AH). Lazuli Buntings were seen in larger-than-normal numbers along the e. edge of the migration path, including singles at Austin 15 Apr (SR, BiB), Quintana, Brazoria 26 Apr (MG, CR), Bryan Beach, Brazoria 27 Apr (CBr), Washington 1 May (DVo), and Bowie 12 May (BJo). A male Painted Bunting was at Galveston 1–3 Mar (LL, JSt). A Dickcissel at Cove, Chambers 23 Mar (PF) was early.

Two late lingering Brewer's Blackbirds were near Stegal, Bailey 8 May (JST), and another was in Lubbock 14 May (EM, TM). Bronzed Cowbirds made another strong appearance on the South Plains and appear to be well established there. The **Streak-backed Oriole** that wintered at Brazos Bend S.P., Fort Bend remained until at least 8 Apr (m.ob.). A Hooded Oriole provided a rare Upper Texas Coast record at L. Jackson, Brazoria 15–17 Mar (JA, CR et al.), while another in Midland 10 May (D&JMe) was a county first. Out-of-range Scott's Orioles included singles in Bell 3 May (Rko) and Midland 28 May (RMS et al.). Purple Finches lingered into the spring, with individuals scattered from Lubbock to scattered e. and cen. Texas locations, the latest noted in Brazos 10 Apr (BY). A surprising find was a pair of Cassin's Finches in Dallam 3 Apr (BP). Small flocks of Red Crossbills lingered in El Paso until mid-May (JPa), and the species apparently nested in the Davis Mts. for the 2nd year in a row. Pine Siskins lingered in good numbers well into mid-May and even late May in many areas of the state.

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