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The entire spring was exceedingly dry in the western half of the state. A number of Trans-Pecos locations, including Alpine, Ft. Davis, and El Paso, had an inch of precipitation or less between November 2005 and May 2006. Effects of these conditions on birds were not immediately apparent but are expected to result in diminished breeding success for the summer season. Farther east, precipitation finally relieved dry conditions in May. Up to 15-25 cm of rain fell over much of South Texas during the month of May, while a deluge of 51 cm fell on portions of Kleberg County 29-30 May.

Migration in the west was generally lackluster, as the dry and clear conditions were often favorable for migrants. Numbers of common migrants, e.g., Wilson's Warbler, were still moving through in good numbers at the end of the period. The severe drought may have resulted in many western birds moving eastward, including a notable increase in Cassin's Sparrows east of the Balcones Escarpment. The late fronts that produced heavy rains along the coast in late April and May grounded large numbers of migrants for brief periods.

The highlight of the spring was a well-documented Pacific Golden-Plover near Edna, Jackson County in mid-April. Although this sighting clearly overshadowed other rarities of the season, the second coastal record of Yellow-billed Loon at Corpus Christi and the second documented record of Short-tailed Hawk from the Trans-Pecos were also excep-

tional. Yet another appearance of a Slate-throated Redstart in Big Bend's Chisos Mountains in early May suggested that species may be a more regular spring overshoot than previously appreciated.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were noted as numerous in e. Texas, with reports from Morris, Henderson, and Angelina. Very unusual in w. Texas, 4 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were a great find at Imperial Res., Pecos 10 May (ph. BFi, CG). A Greater Scaup near Freepoint, Brazoria 29-30 Apr was late (CTL, RW). Surf Scoters were reported in low numbers along the U.T.C. Notable by their absence were White-winged and Black Scoters. Single Long-tailed Ducks were at McFaddin N.W.R., Jefferson 1 Mar (AMa) and at the Texas City Dike, Galveston 17 Mar (SL). A late Common Goldeneye put in an appearance at Hornsby Bend, Travis 30 Apr (EC). Also late were 2 Hooded Mergansers at Gene Howe W.M.A.,



Least Grebes are expanding their range up the Texas coast, and recently there have been a few documented nesting attempts on the Upper Coast. In spring 2006, a pair nested unsuccessfully at Pearland, Brazoria County (here 22 April). Photograph by Michael Lindsey.

Hemphill 20 May (BRo).

Reports of Pacific Loon included 2 at L. Buchanan, Llano 11-17 Mar (TFe) and one at Lometa Res., Lampasas 22 Mar (BFR). A first for the Coastal Bend, a Yellow-billed Loon had a short stay in the Laguna Madre, Corpus Christi, Nueces 25-27 Mar (+MR, SCo et al.). Least Grebes continued their good showings from the winter in both the Austin area and on the U.T.C., though a single bird in Temple, Bell 5 May furnished a first county record (J&ES, fide RPi). Another Least Grebe was at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend, Brewster 27

Apr-4 May (GB, m.ob.). A Red-billed Tropicbird was seen regularly from fishing boats offshore from South Padre I., Cameron early May+ (fide ScC, ph. PM). Unusual for late winter was a Masked Booby off the jetties near Packery Channel, Nueces 3 Mar (BFR). Not usually seen far from the coast during the spring, L. Travis, Travis hosted 2 Brown Pelicans 5 Mar (TG); one was at Buffalo Springs L., Lubbock 23 Apr (CSt). Magnificent Frigatebirds arrived on the coast exceptionally early, with individuals noted at six locations between Aransas and Galveston 11-15 Mar (m.ob.).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Quite unexpected was a Little Blue Heron near Marfa, Presidio 26 Apr (ML). A few Tricolored Herons were well inland, with up to 4 at Richland W.M.A., Freestone 30 Mar-11 Apr (PBa), one in Temple, Bell 21-24 Apr (RPi) and another at Hornsby Bend, Travis 8 Apr+ (m.ob.). Richland Creek W.M.A., Freestone/Navarro hosted an unprecedented

count of 500+ White Ibis 10 & 12 May (PBa, MD, CSh, HH). Inland Glossy Ibis included one on L. Kirby, Taylor 3 May (LBI) and one in Waco, McLennan 29 Apr-7 May (JMu, FB). Unusual away from the coast in the spring was a Roseate Spoonbill at L. Livingston, San Jacinto 12 May (GR). Three Black Vultures accompanied a large flock of Turkey Vultures over Lubbock Lubbock 9 Apr (AHe, AvH), representing the first multiple-bird sighting of this species on the high plains. The Greater Flamingo first discovered in Sep 2005 lingered in Aransas until at least 30 Apr (m.ob.); it was observed frequently from the tour boats that seek Whooping Cranes.

White-tailed Kites continued to show signs of range expansion throughout the state. The first 2

White-tailed Kites were recorded this spring, with single birds near the Angelina County airport 30 Mar and 21 Apr (NB, JWi). Other reports included one near Way-side, Armstrong 28 Apr (ph. RM), a first Panhandle record; a pair near Girard, Kent 25 Feb-5 Mar (JWY, AHe); one 14 km n. of Sierra Blanca, Hudspeth 11 Mar (CBr); and up to 3 in the high Davis Mts., Jeff Davis 27 Mar+ (JaP, m.ob.). Out-of-range Harris's Hawks were at Ft. Davis, Jeff Davis 24 Mar (ML) and Hornsby Bend, Travis 20 Apr (BLY). Providing only the 2nd record for the Trans-Pecos, a

Short-tailed Hawk was on the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 23 Apr–5 May (†ML, KB). More expected was a well-studied Short-tailed Hawk at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr* 25 Apr (†BG, BLy), and a pair was seen in display flight at Bentsen, *Hidalgo* 30 Apr (†MI et al.). Extralimital White-tailed Hawks included one along the Brazos R., *Washington* 28 Mar (DVo) and another at Granger L., *Williamson* 23 Apr (TFe). There were several of Zone-tailed Hawk sightings in cen. Texas, with the easternmost being one in Salado, *Bell* 7 Mar (RPi). A Prairie Falcon on the Katy prairie, *Harris* 6 Mar was one of very few recent area records (MLi).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

One of very few documented records for the Trans-Pecos, a Purple Gallinule lingered on a pond in Musquiz Canyon, *Jeff Davis* 6–20 May (RT, ph. ML). Purple Gallinules were also noted in cen. Texas, with five different reports, the earliest being from 23 Apr (*vide* EC). A Pacific Golden-Plover was well studied in flooded rice fields near Edna, *Jackson* 12–13 Apr (p.a.; ph., †MR, SCo, RW, MCo); this exceptional sighting provided a first record for Texas. Rare for ne. Texas were 2 Snowy Plovers at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 23 Apr (RR, RKI). Migrating Piping Plovers were detected inland at Pflugerville, *Travis* 21 Apr (TFe), Cactus Playa, *Moore* 22 Apr (BP), in Waco, *McLennan* 29 Apr (FB, JMu, EH, KHa), and on Kirby L., *Taylor* 6 May (LBI). Up to 16 Mountain Plovers near Pantex, *Carson* 21–23 Mar (JR, DWa) made a county first. Eight Whimbrels were at Greenbelt Res., *Donley* 14 May for an unusually high inland count and a rare Panhandle record (ph. BP). Eight Hudsonian Godwits were at a wastewater treatment pond in se. *Jones* 13 May (JaP, LP). A Ruddy Turnstone on L. Buchanan, *Llano* 4 May provided a 2nd record for the Edwards Plateau (TFe). A Surfbird was on Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 12–15 Mar (†TB, MA), the 9th record for the state. Much rarer in the w. half of the state, up to 4 White-rumped Sandpipers were noted at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 27 May–2 Jun (MR, SCo, ML). A Dunlin was at Cactus Playa, *Moore* 11 Apr (BP)—one of fewer than a dozen records for the Panhandle. A rice field in *Waller* held an estimated 1000+ Buff-breasted Sandpipers 21 Mar (KeH), representing a significant percentage of the known population of this species. A Red-necked Phalarope put in an appearance at L. Kirby, *Taylor* 17 May (LBI).

A Laughing Gull near Utopia, *Uvalde* 20

Apr (MH) provided a rare Hill Country record. An early Franklin's Gull was in Temple, *Bell* 4 Mar (RPi); 280 were seen flying northward over San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 30 Apr, probably displaced eastward by a late-season cold front (RW); and 200 at a Houston landfill, *Harris* 18 May was a noteworthy tally (MR). An ad. Little Gull was present at White Rock L., *Dallas* 6–17 Mar (CRu, ph. BG). A late Bonaparte's Gull was at Granger L., *Williamson* on 23 Apr (TFe), while one at Big Bend's Santa Elena Canyon 1 Mar (MF) was a first for the park, and one at McNary



In recent years, White-tailed Kites have been documented in many unexpected locations across Texas. This individual near Wayside, Armstrong County was found on 28 April 2006 and represents the first to be documented in the Panhandle.

Photograph by Ray Matlack.

Res., *Hudspeth* 29 May–9 Jun (JPa) was notably late and provided a very rare summer-period record for the state. California Gulls were found at Buchanan Dam, *Burnet* 17 Mar (TFe) and White River L., *Crosby* 13 May (BBe). A first-winter Thayer's Gull was at L. Texoma, *Grayson* 6–17 Mar (BG et al.). Lingered Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the U.T.C. included singles at Quintana, *Brazoria* 6 May (CTL) and Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 26 May (JSt). Glaucous Gulls were noted at the Bolivar Ferry landing, *Galveston* 17–19 Mar (WB) and at Elliott Landfill in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 25 Mar (MR). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull was at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 14 Mar (ph., †SG), while the previously reported first-winter bird at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* lingered until 4 Mar (JSt). A Common Tern made a brief stop at Braunig L. in San Antonio, *Bexar* 7 May (MR). Very early for the Panhandle was a Forster's Tern at L. Marvin, *Hemphill* 5 Mar (LSa).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Common Ground-Dove in *Palo Pinto* 16 Mar (PBi, BG) was rare for the Region. Details of a pair of Ruddy Ground-Doves at *Uvalde*,

Uvalde 5 May (MH) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C.; another pair was reported at Boquillas Canyon, *Brewster* 31 May (†ChS). A Mangrove Cuckoo was at Weslaco, *Hidalgo* 19–30 May (†YA, JPi et al.), providing just the 10th record for the state. A rare migrant for the South Plains, a Black-billed Cuckoo was at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 6 May (BBe). The substantial number of wintering Burrowing Owls in the Blackland Prairies continued through Mar, with sightings of up to 6 in *Bell* and *Williamson* (TFe, BSt, RPi), while one was reported in w. Temple, *Bell* on the bizarre date of 16 May (SSn). A late Long-eared Owl was in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 9 May (BBe). An inexplicably early Common Nighthawk was seen at Mansfield Dam, *Travis* 6 Mar (TG).

A Green Violet-ear was present in Spicewood, *Travis* 5–11 May (†LSc, EC). One in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 16 May+ (†M&ME) was only the 2nd for the Trans-Pecos; the previous record comes from the same yard! Four Broad-billed Hummingbirds were seen in the state this spring: a female in the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 25–30 Mar (M&ME) and single males at L. Brownwood S.P., *Brown* on 8–9 Apr (LBr), in the Christmas Mts., *Brewster* 9 May+ (COJ et al.), and at Midland, *Midland* 26 May (C&NH). A male White-eared Hummingbird appeared in the Davis

Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 12 Apr+ (†ML), for the earliest arrival date ever for Texas, and a female appeared nearby 28 May+ (†M&ME). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird took up residence along Avenue A in San Antonio 25 May+ (DE). A Lucifer Hummingbird along the Pecos R. in n. *Terrell* 1 May (ph. BSA) was well e. of known locations in the state. Significant for the w. side of the state in spring were single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Panther Junction, Big Bend N.P. 28 Apr (R&AD), *Lubbock*, *Lubbock* 28 Apr (CB), and *Alpine*, *Brewster* 18 May (ML). More interesting were single gravid female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds captured in *Real* and *Bandera* 6 May (BO); this species is not known to nest in the Hill Country. Adding to the mystery were a male and an apparent female present through the spring near Utopia, *Uvalde* (MH). Extreme drought conditions were apparently responsible for the unprecedented numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds utilizing feeders in numerous sites in El Paso through the season. A Lewis's Woodpecker was reported in San Antonio, *Bexar* 16 Apr (CF). In the Trans-Pecos, the Lewis's from the winter season at Guadalupe Mountains N.P. lingered through

most of May (*fide* JWo), while another was in the Davis Mts. 16 Apr (ML). A Golden-fronted Woodpecker in extreme n. *Presidio* near Valentine 22-23 Mar (C&JM) was well away from areas of regular occurrence. A courting pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers at L. Tanglewood, *Randall* 5 Mar (TJ) was far w. of this species usual haunts in the Panhandle. A Downy Woodpecker was reported from Midland 25 Mar (m.ob.). Of note was a Hairy Woodpecker at Abilene, *Taylor* 19 Apr (LBl). Two Northern Flickers seen on the Katy Prairie, *Harris* 5 May were interesting, as this species is a rare nester on the U.T.C. (SG).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An Acadian Flycatcher at Arapaho Park, *Dallas* 29 Apr (RR, GC) was considered a rare migrant away from the species' nesting range farther east. A Cordilleran Flycatcher in *Kenedy* 16 May (BFR) represented an exceptional spring record for South Texas. Once again, Buff-breasted Flycatchers were found in small numbers this spring in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 16 Apr+ (†ML, KB et al.). A Black Phoebe at Crossbar Ranch, *Potter* 10 Mar (RM) was rare for the Panhandle in early spring. A pair of Eastern Phoebes was found nesting in *Bastrop* 26 Apr (BFR). Rare in East Texas was a male Vermilion Flycatcher in *Nacogdoches* 8 Mar (D&JG). Two Dusky-capped Flycatchers present since Dec along Cannon Rd., *Hidalgo* were still present 6 Mar (†TFu). In the Davis Mts., three pairs were located 13 May+ in areas where they have been present the past two years (†ML, ME), and another was seen near Mt. Livermore 28 May (SCo, MR). A Great Crested Flycatcher at Houston, *Harris* 11 Mar (JK) was the 2nd earliest for the U.T.C. Wandering Great Kiskadees were observed in *Guadalupe* 2 Apr (SSc), in *Coryell* 29 May (SSu), near Waco, *McLennan* 20-22 Apr (KA), and in *Shelby* 8 May (D&TP), the latter being only the 2nd for the entire Pineywoods region. A Piratic Flycatcher was found and heard calling at Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* 20-28 Mar (†DDa et al.); it represents the 3rd Texas record. A flycatcher photographed 29 May at Houston's Bear Creek Park, *Harris* was thought to be either a Piratic or Variegated Flycatcher (DDi, ph. MQ), though a firm identification may not be possible. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher spent 18-22 Apr at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* (ph. WW et al.), while another was at South Padre I., *Cameron* 13 May (ph. W&GC et al.). A Tropical Kingbird at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 27 Apr was noteworthy away from the traditional nesting site at Cottonwood Campground (JD). A Thick-billed Kingbird was reported from Big Bend's Dugout Wells 27

May (†HW). Far more than usual for the Pineywoods were six reports of Western Kingbirds this spring (MHW et al.). A great find was a Gray Kingbird at McFaddin N.W.R., *Jefferson* 29 Apr (SM, ph. JHa); it is only the 5th to be documented in the state. A lone female Rose-throated Becard was found nest-building at Santa Ana N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 20 May+ (m.ob.).

A Northern Shrike was in *Hemphill* 5 Mar (LSa). A nesting pair of Bell's Vireos found in the Turkey Creek drainage, *Motley* 13 May (AHe) provided a rare breeding record for the



Short-tailed Hawk was first documented in Texas in 1988, but there are now nearly 30 state records. This light-morph adult in the Davis Mountains from 23 April (here) through 5 May 2006 provided the second record for the Trans-Pecos. Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.

South Plains. A Black-capped Vireo was reported from a Calallen, *Nueces* yard 21 Apr (VS). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Rio Grande Village 13 Apr (W&EH) was rare. The Plumbeous Vireo present throughout the winter at Rosehill Cemetery in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* was singing 1 Apr (MCo), and another was present in San Antonio, *Bexar* 6-9 May (AG et al.). A Hutton's Vireo in w. El Paso 7 Mar (BFi) was noteworthy. At least 5 Yellow-green Vireos were found this spring, mostly along the coast from Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* to South Padre I., *Cameron*. It was a banner season for Black-whiskered Vireos along the coast. On the U.T.C., at least 4 and possibly more were involved in a series of sightings 9 Apr–28 May from Sabine Woods, *Jefferson*, Sea Rim S.P., *Jefferson*, and Smith Oaks in High I., *Galveston*. On the Lower Texas Coast, single birds were seen at South Padre I., *Cameron* 23 Apr (ScC, ph. PWe) and 11-12 May (PWA, ph. ScC). A Blue Jay was seen in the Flour Bluff area of Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 27 Apr (BiS). A Western Scrub-Jay near Gordon, *Palo Pinto* 17 Mar (BFR) provided a first record for the Region. At least three pairs of Tamaulipas Crows were at Brownsville 15 Mar+ (MG, BMC, m.ob.). A Fish Crow found on the e. side of Houston, *Harris* 18 May (ph.

MR) was w. of its normal range. Five Tree Swallows were exploring snags at Greenbelt L., *Donley* 14 May (BP); this species is a very rare breeder in the Panhandle. Early swallows included a Barn Swallow at L. Meredith, *Moore* 19 Mar (BP) and a Bank Swallow at Brazos Bend S.P., *Fort Bend* 10 Mar (JSt).

CREEPERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A lingering Brown Creeper on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 9 Apr (JSt) was late and rare for the immediate coast. A House Wren at Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend* 5 May (JBa) and a Golden-crowned Kinglet in Houston, *Harris* 31 Mar (JSc) were late. Ruby-crowned Kinglets lingered well into spring in many locations, among the most noteworthy was one on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 12-13 May (JSt) Marking the continuing range expansion of Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, a pair was found nesting at Midland, *Midland* 15 Apr (MCR et al.) and had fledged young by 15 May (RMS, SSC). A Western Bluebird was noted at Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 11 Mar (BSu). A Veery and a Gray-cheeked Thrush at San Gabriel W.M.A. 7 May (TFe) provided rare *Williamson* records. Single Hermit Thrushes lingered at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* and High I., *Galveston* through 26 Apr (CRi, BBa). The long-staying Clay-colored Robin in Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* was noted again 7 Apr (TM), also of note was one at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 17 Apr (MCo). The Rufous-backed Robin found near Utley, *Bastrop* in the winter was last seen 7 Apr (BFR). Following the banner winter for Varied Thrush in the state, yet another was at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground 14 Mar (†ADo). A Long-billed Thrasher was banded along the Pecos R. in n. *Terrell* 6 May (BSa), well up the drainage from the species' known range. Two Crissal Thrashers in Midland 13 Apr (m.ob.) were in the same area as noted in the winter. Two Sprague's Pipits in *Armstrong* 22 Apr (JeM) provided a rare Panhandle record. Equally rare in the Panhandle were a male Phainopepla at Clarendon, *Donley* 24-25 Apr (VM, MNR) and 2 males in *Potter* 30 Apr (RKA).

An Orange-crowned Warbler in El Paso, *El Paso* 24 May (BZ) was notably late. Tropical Parulas made news in many areas of the state Extralimital records included singles at Panther Junction in Big Bend 2 Mar (R&AD) and Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend* 28 May (JSt et al.) More expected records, indicating the continued colonization of the Edwards Plateau, included one returning to Hamilton Pool, *Travis* 9 Apr (RiK), a singing male near Utopia, *Uvalde* 10 Apr–21 May (MH), a singing male near Concan, *Uvalde* 10 Apr (MH), and 2 singing males at Concan 26 Apr (DM). West-

erly Chestnut-sided Warblers included one at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 6 May (BBe, AHe, AvH) and another at Panther Junction, *Brewster* 19 May (MF, R&AD). Also of note was a Magnolia Warbler at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village 26 May (HW). A late migrating Black-throated Gray Warbler was in El Paso 24 May (BZ). A Golden-cheeked Warbler was out of place along the Medina R. in s. *Bexar* 18 Apr (MMS). A Hermit Warbler at Sea Rim, *Jefferson* 17 Apr (ph., WW, LBa) was a spectacular find, while a lowland migrant in El Paso 30 Apr (ph., JPa) was also of interest. A Yellow-throated Warbler was discovered at Hot Springs, Big Bend N.P. 20 Apr (DS), and a male returned for the 2nd year to the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 22 Apr+ (ML, KB). A Grace's Warbler was in El Paso 13 May (JPa); the species is a rare migrant in the lowlands. Prairie Warblers of note included singles at South Padre I., *Cameron* 8 Apr (BZ) and Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 30 Apr (MCo, WS). A Blackpoll Warbler in Midland, *Midland* 6 May (AW, SSt) provided a first county record since 1998. Single Prothonotary Warblers were noted at White River L., *Crosby* 13 May (BBe) and South Llano River S.P., *Kimble* 21 Apr (RH, LL). An early-arriving Swainson's Warbler was discovered in Corpus Christi 21 Mar (MCo). Always a nice find in the w. half of the state, Worm-eating Warblers were found in the Chisos Basin, *Brewster* 20-23 Apr (DS), Park Chalk Bluff, *Uvalde* 28 Apr (ph., A&CM), and Lubbock, *Lubbock* 14 May (AHe). An Ovenbird was foraging around Boot Springs in the Chisos Mts. of Big Bend 15 May (KL). A MacGillivray's Warbler made news on South Padre I., *Cameron* 11 May (MG). A Connecticut Warbler was reported at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 5 May (†SY); there are only eight accepted records for the state. The male Gray-crowned Yellowthroat that has been present at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* since Feb remained until 3 Jun (CBu, m.ob.). Hooded Warblers made a noticeable push westward, with 3 at Lubbock 23-27 Apr (AHe, CLM, JoB, PK) and singles at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, *Llano* 19 May (PD) and Big Bend's Boot Spring 28 May

(CA, GC, BG). Of particular interest were Canada Warblers in the Trans-Pecos, in El Paso 23 May (DA), and at Cattail Falls in Big Bend 30 May (BG). A highlight of the season was a Slate-throated Redstart in Boot Canyon, *Brewster* 2 May (ph. J&LW).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Only rarely observed as a migrant in the lowlands, single Hepatic Tanagers were in El Paso 17 (JSp) & 20 May (JPa). There was a major influx of Cassin's Sparrows in Central Texas, with multiple singing males in *Williamson* 23 Apr-31 May (TFe, BSt) and singles in *Hill* 29



The migration route of Baird's Sparrows appeared to be pushed slightly eastward this season. Three individuals were documented in the central portion of the state, including this bird that was at Austin, Travis County on 21 April 2006. It provided the first record for the Hill Country, which was quickly followed the next day by another in nearby Burnet County. Photograph by Eric Carpenter.

Apr (DDC, DL), *Guadalupe* 28 Apr (fide SSc), and *Bell* 28 May (RPi). Even more surprising were one or 2 at Alazan Bayou, *Nacogdoches* 18 Apr (DWo); there are only three previous records for East Texas. A Brewer's Sparrow was e. of the normal migration route in Spring Branch, *Comal* 22 Mar (BD). A Black-throated Sparrow in sw. *Stephens* 8 Apr (RR) provided a rare record for n.-cen. Texas. Savannah Sparrows lingered well past the normal departure time in several locations. Most noteworthy among these were 12 at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 18 May (JK), one in *Kenedy* 22 May (BFR, GP), and singles in n. *Brewster* 30 May (BSt) and near Comstock, *Val Verde* on the same day (MG). Baird's Sparrows apparently strayed well eastward of the known migration path this spring; singles were found

in se. *Young* 4 Apr (†BFR), at Austin, *Travis* 21 Apr (†PS, ph. EC), and at Balcones Canyonlands N.W.R., *Burnet* 22 Apr (†BRe, CSe et al.); more expected was one at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 4 May (†JL, KHo). Two Le Conte's Sparrows were a nice find at Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 25 Mar (KS). A lingering Fox Sparrow was at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 8 Apr (BBe). A rather late Song Sparrow was found in *Jones* 13 May (JaP) but was eclipsed by one at *Midland* 23 May (BLu, RMS). A Lapland Longspur at *Fairfield Lake* S.P., *Freestone* 7 Mar (BFL et al.) provided a county first.

A female Crimson-collared Grosbeak was seen briefly at *Weslaco*, *Hidalgo* 20 May (†MG). Two Pyrrhuloxias were well n. of their expected range at Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 1 Mar-4 Apr (KS). A Black-headed Grosbeak in *Dallas* 7 May (PA) was a nice find for n.-cen. Texas. An early Indigo Bunting was at a College Station, *Brazos* 16 Mar (ER), while a Lazuli Bunting on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 30 Apr (ph., AMu) provided a rare spring record for the U.T.C. A male Varied Bunting took up residence in nw. *Hidalgo* 16 Apr-17 May (L&JMc, GL). An extraordinary movement of 800-1000 Painted Buntings was observed in ne. *Kenedy* 4 May (BFR).

Single Common Grackles were at Cottonwood Campground, *Brewster* 29 Mar and 28 Apr (MF), where this species is rare; interestingly, there are exceedingly few records of the species from Mexico, just a few m away. A male Bronzed Cowbird at The Woodlands, *Harris* 9 Apr-11 May (LC) provided a county first. This species continues to increase on the South Plains: a male near *Tokio*, *Terry* 11 Apr (AHe) and 2 at *Cochran County Park*, *Cochran* 20 May (AHe) provided new county records. Two Audubon's Orioles were near *Bandera*, *Bandera* 21 Feb+ (LH), and 3 were near *Lost Maples State Natural Area*, *Bandera* 12 Apr (BZ, KZ), adding to an interesting number of records from the s. Edwards Plateau. Baltimore Orioles wandered to Cottonwood Campground 2-7 May and *Rio Grande Village* 2 May (KHo, JL). A male Scott's Oriole was a surprise at *Wolfforth*, *Lubbock* 26 Apr (LW). An ad. Pine Siskin tending a fledgling in *Amarillo*, *Potter* 27 May (KS) represented a rare breeding record for the state. A singing male Lesser Goldfinch at *Port Aransas*, *Nueces* 11 May (MCo) and another at *Packery Channel*, *Nueces* 20 May (MCo) were on the barrier islands, where rare. Also of note were single Lesser Goldfinches at two

SA Up to 3 Rufous-capped Warblers, including an apparent mated pair, were present at Neal's Lodge at Concan, *Uvalde* this spring (m.ob.). The mated pair was first noted 17 Mar when they were duetting in song. They remained in the area for the remainder of the season; however, confirmed nesting, which would be a first for Texas, was not documented. A Rufous-capped Warbler was seen briefly in this same location in spring 2005; and an apparently unmated male was found near this spot 11 Apr (MH).

w. Houston, *Harris* locations, the first present 3-7 Apr (*fide* PF) and the other 19-27 Apr (PWr).

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Colorado & Wyoming



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Hopes of a reasonably normal climatic season melted as quickly as the winter's snowpack when the Region experienced a hot, dry spring. Colorado's temperature ranking was classified "above normal" by NOAA, while Wyoming's temperature average ranked "much above normal" for the season. By 30 May, the U.S. Drought Monitor (<<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>>) showed most of Wyoming with abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions, while Colorado graded from abnormally dry in the northwestern corner of the state to extreme drought conditions in the southeastern plains.

Colorado tallied a new icterid for the state list (pending acceptance of the photographed bird), and both states posted impressive if short-lived pulses of shorebirds, including a

few species in unheard-of numbers. A superb flight of Veery and Gray-cheeked Thrush upstaged the season's lackluster warbler migration (excepting Blackpolls). Several other species with few enough previous records to count on one hand kept birders busy and will undoubtedly engage both states' records committees as documentation is received.

Abbreviations: Bonny (Bonny Res., *Yuma*), Brush Hollow (Brush Hollow Res., *Fremont*) Cheraw (L. Cheraw, *Otero*); Cherry Creek (Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*); Chico (Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo/El Paso*); Crow Valley (Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*); Jumbo (Jumbo Res., *Logan/Sedgwick*); Table Mt. (Table Mt. Wildlife Habitat Management Area, *Carbon*, WY), Tamarack (Tamarack Ranch S.W.A., *Logan*) "West Slope" denotes locations west of the Rockies. Due to reporting biases, all locations