



Mark W. Lockwood
Eric Carpenter
Willie Sekula

For much of Texas, the spring of 2007 was characterized by above-average precipitation and below-average temperatures. Of course, there were exceptions to this, but they were rather hard to find in the big picture. In the far west, El Paso received more than double its normal rainfall through May, with 92.4 mm vs. 43.4 mm. The Chisos Basin of Big Bend National Park reported 191.2 mm of precipitation during the season, up 142.7 mm from 2006. The Panhandle and South Plains received larger quantities of rain through the period, filling all of the playas to the point that some observers commented that there was too much water. This trend continued farther east, as much of north-central Texas received over 130 mm of rain above normal, resulting in levels in reservoirs raising as much as 3.7 m. On the Upper Coast, Houston received 511.5 mm of rain or 204.7 mm above normal.

All of this rain resulted in quality stopover habitat for passerine migrants at inland locations and abundant nesting areas for opportunistic grassland birds such as Grasshopper Sparrows and Dickcissels. This also resulted in abundant habitat for shorebirds, but this made observing that migration very difficult by spreading out the birds. Lupardus noted a secondary problem in Midland, where shorebird habitat was limited due to shorelines being obscured by heavy vegetation.

Three of the highlights of the spring season actually involved nesting birds, a pair of Bald Eagles near Dalhart, the first nesting since 1916 in the Panhandle, a pair of Long-eared Owls in El Paso, the first documented since 1918 in the county, and the first documented nest in the United States of Mangrove Warbler in the Lower Laguna Madre. However, what garnered the most attention was the presence

of some relatively cooperative Masked Ducks in Kleberg County.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHEARWATERS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to spread northward, with several sightings from Hunt, Kaufman, and Jack this season (m.ob.). A rare find was 8 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Richland Creek W.M.A., Freestone 19 May (DDC, DLI); also of interest was a high count of 350+ on Pelican I., Galveston 29 Apr (TE). Seemingly regular in far w. Texas, a Eurasian Wigeon was at Ft. Hancock Res., Hudspeth 5 May (JKi) and another at nearby Tornillo Res., El Paso 7 May (†BZ). Less expected was a male at a neighborhood pond in Dallas 16-25 Mar (BLa, †GCo). A Cinnamon Teal at Anahuac N.W.R., Chambers 4 May was notably late (JBe). Inland Surf Scoters made a good showing this spring, with a pair in Midland, Midland 11-12 Apr (RMS), one at Hagerman N.W.R., Grayson 15 Apr (JSc, MSc), with 2 present there 26 Apr (LL), one recovered near Abilene 3 May (HT), and one at Hornsby Bend, Travis 13 May (RD, SB). The Grayson White-winged Scoter present since late Nov lingered until 4 Mar (GCo, TR). Hooded Mergansers successfully nested at two Brazoria locations in mid-Apr: one brood

sighting was followed by another (or the possibly the same) female-plumaged bird near Riviera 22 Apr (†TPe). At a separate pond near Riviera, a pair of these ducks was present 11 May+ (ph. GP, †m.ob.).

The only Red-throated Loons reported were singles at L. Texoma, Grayson 4 & 25 Mar (GCo, TR) and L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt 24 Mar and 14 Apr (GCo, BoS). Single Pacific Loons were on L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt 18 Mar-15 Apr (m.ob.) and L. Texoma, Grayson 25 Mar (GCo, BoS); more unexpected was one at Richland Chambers Res., Freestone 17 Apr (TPo). Two Least Grebes were reported at Brazos River County Park, Brazoria 30 Mar (DVe), while another pair was at Brazos Bend S.P., Fort Bend 14 Apr (BG). Lingering Western Grebes included 2 on L. Kickapoo, Archer 14 Mar (SL, DHo), 5 on L. Buchanan, Llano 3 May (TFe), and 2 at L. Rita Blanca, Hartley 26 May (LSa). Details of a Sooty Shearwater reported from South Padre I., Cameron 17 May (†LMe) will be reviewed by the state records committee.

PELICANS THROUGH RAPTORS

Almost an annual visitor to the El Paso area, 2 Brown Pelicans were at McNary Res., Hudspeth 5 May (JPa), with one remaining through 12 May (MSt); another juv. was at the



What could be called a mini-invasion of Masked Ducks occurred in Kleberg County, Texas, when birds were found at three different locations between 2 April and 30 May 2007. This pair was the most cooperative during its stay near Riviera from 11 May through the season (here 20 May). Photograph by Glenn Perrigo.

near Shady Acres (JLa, ph. CBr) and another near Holiday Lakes (ph. MGr). This species also nested at the Heard National Science Museum, Collin in early May (GG) and in Longview, Harrison in late May (DBr, MED). There was a mini-invasion of Masked Ducks into Kleberg this season. The first sighting involved a female-plumaged bird near Kingsville 2-19 Apr (MaG, TS, †m.ob.). This

same location 20-28 May (JPa). Another Brown Pelican was in Real 9 May (AB). An amazingly high count of 12,500 Double-crested Cormorants was tallied at L. Tawakoni Hunt, Rains, and Van Zandt 8 Apr (RKi). For unknown reasons, colonial waterbirds failed to nest at McNary Res., Hudspeth for the first time in many years. By the end of the period, there was no breeding activity noted among



Providing the third record for the Upper Texas Coast, this Band-tailed Pigeon made a brief appearance at Houston, Harris County 12 April 2007. Photograph by Debra Logsdon.

Neotropic and Double-crested Cormorants or among Snowy and Cattle Egrets. Continuing a trend of lingering and possibly breeding American Bitterns along the coast, at least one bird was still present at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 27 May (JSt). Unusual in the South Plains, an early Snowy Egret was at White River L., *Crosby* 24 Mar (AHe), while another was in *Gray* 23 Apr (MDL). A Tricolored Heron in Midkiff, *Midland* 14 Apr (BLu et al.) was unusual, as was one in Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 7 May (MSt). A Reddish Egret flying over College Station, *Brazos* 10 May (ER) was a county first. A Glossy Ibis stopped briefly at Temple, *Bell* 25 Apr (RPi).

A Black Vulture was near Floydada, *Floyd* 27 May (AHe, AvH), where the species is quite rare. An ad. Greater Flamingo was in the Lower Laguna Madre, *Cameron* 28 May (ph. LSh), providing only the 8th record for the state. An impressive group of as many as 9 Swallow-tailed Kites overnighted on S. Padre I., *Cameron* 9-10 Apr (AS, ph. ScC). Farther away from their usual migration route were single Swallow-tailed Kites at Mitchell L., *Bexar* 24 Mar (*fide* SCo), in se. San Antonio 21 Apr (BW), and at Concan, *Uvalde* 22 Apr (C&CG). One seen near Gus Engling W.M.A., *Anderson* 25 May was late to be away from known breeding areas (HH, CS). A pair of nesting White-tailed Kites in n. *Kent* provided a first breeding record for

the area, though the nest was lost late in the season due to inclement weather (JCa, AHe). Also noteworthy were 2 White-tailed Kites in *Ellis* 20 Apr (AE, RRo, FF). A pair of Bald Eagles fledged a single young out of a nest on a manmade platform near Dalhart, *Dallam* (CBo), providing the first successful local nesting since 1916. A pair of Northern Harriers lingered throughout May at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso* (BZ), while a lone bird was seen at Balmorhea, *Reeves* 31 May (JPa). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks attending a nest was discovered in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 19 May (ML, M&ME)—the 2nd nesting record for the range. The Sylvan Beach Hawkwatch, *Galveston* had nice counts of 254 Mississippi Kites and 10,372 Broad-winged Hawks 11 Apr (DBe et al.). Over 50,000 Broad-winged Hawks were tallied at Calaveras L., *Bexar* 13 Apr (MR, SCo). A Short-tailed Hawk at Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* 14 Apr (†BCI) was a nice find, though

one in nw. San Antonio, *Bexar* on the same date was farther n. than expected (†SCo). Unusual was a Golden Eagle observed in *Throckmorton* 1 Apr (GCo, BoS). Continuing to expand their range, Crested Caracaras were reported at no fewer than eight locations in n.-cen. Texas (m.ob.), including a nesting pair in e. *Dallas* 4-11 Mar (RRa).

PLOVERS THROUGH GULLS

Large concentrations of American Golden-Plovers included an early count of 325 near Magnolia Beach, *Calhoun* 11 Mar (BFR), while a conservative estimate of 800+ individuals near Granger L., *Williamson* 25 Mar (TFe) was very impressive. Snowy Plovers made a good showing in cen. Texas, with three sightings 17-25 Apr (RPi) in Temple, *Bell*, plus singles at Pflugerville Res., *Travis* 25 Apr (TFe) and at Austin, *Travis* 16 May (MKI). Five Snowy Plovers on L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 25 Apr (MW) was a good count. Single Piping Plovers at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 25 Apr (MW) and at Temple, *Bell* 13 May (RPi) were notable, while another one at L. Buchanan, *Llano* 3 May (TFe) was a first for the Edwards Plateau. A single Whimbrel stopped at Southside W.T.P., *Dallas* 27 Apr-5 May (BoS), while a group of 19 on Ft. Hood, *Bell* 30 Apr (RKO, GE) was a very high count for cen. Texas. A Hudsonian Godwit in *Midland* 28 May (RMS) was a very good find. Rare on the South

Plains, 4 White-rumped Sandpipers were near Lubbock, *Lubbock* 22 Apr (AHe), while 3 were near Floydada, *Floyd* 26 May (AHe, AvH). An incredible 44 Dunlins were noted at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 16 May (RKi). A Curlew Sandpiper was studied briefly at S. Padre I., *Cameron* 16 May (†KT). Twenty-five Buff-breasted Sandpipers in *Archer* 14 Apr were noteworthy (J&TK). A Ruff was between High I. and Gilchrist, *Galveston* 16 Apr (†JW). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were studied at Southside W.T.P., *Dallas* 18 May (BoS, GCo), in Temple, *Bell* 19 May (RPi), and at Pelican I., *Galveston* 26-30 May (CTL, m.ob.). A Franklin's Gull in *Dallam* 14 Apr (LSa) represented a new county record, while one at Fort Clark Springs, *Kinney* 22 Apr (MHe) was at an odd location. A count of at least 60 Franklin's Gulls on Bull L., *Lamb* 21 Apr (AHe, AvH) was a high number for the South Plains. The 2 Little Gulls present from the winter season continued at White Rock L., *Dallas* until 15 Mar (MW), with the last report of a single bird on 19 Mar (BBa). An imm. Little Gull was seen along Bolivar Peninsula, *Galveston* 24 Mar (†JSt). A California Gull was observed at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 15 Apr (RKi, RBa), while one was present at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 5 May (JPa). Three second-cycle California Gulls were reported from Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 5 May (BBa). A first-cycle Thayer's Gull was found at the White Rock L. spillway, *Dallas* 8 Mar (CRu). The wintering Iceland Gull in Houston, *Harris* lingered until 3 Apr (ph. MR). The ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull present since winter at L. Ray Hubbard, *Dallas* stayed until 17 Mar (GCo, TR). A Glaucous Gull at East Beach, *Galveston* 23 Apr (JSt) was on the late side, as was one at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 28 Apr (SCo, MR, WS).

TERNS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Two Least Terns observed at L. Wichita Park, *Wichita* 15 (SL, DP) & 18 May (SL, DHO) were rare for the area. A young Common Tern put in a rare appearance at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 5 May (TR, GCo et al.). A Band-tailed Pigeon in Houston, *Harris* 12 Apr (ph. DLo) represented the 3rd record for the U.T.C. Single Black-billed Cuckoos were seen in ne. San Antonio, *Bexar* 25 Apr (HR) and in Temple, *Bell* 19 May (RPi). A very early arriving cuckoo, of unknown species, was noted in Houston, *Harris* 17 Mar (TAM), while an early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone* 24 Mar (PB). The wintering Burrowing Owl at Ft. Travis, *Galveston* stayed until 31 Mar (m.ob.). A late spring Long-eared Owl was found at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 15 Apr (AHe). Of greater interest was

the discovery of roosting Long-eared Owls at the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso, *El Paso* 29 Apr+ (JSp), culminating in the detection of at least 2 juvs. in late May. This discovery provided the first documented El Paso nesting record since 1918, although there was evidence of nesting in 1934 and 1936. A late Short-eared Owl was observed hunting at dusk at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 18 Apr (GCo). A pair of Chuck-will's-widows at a nest with eggs along Mitchell Cr., *Donley* 26-28 May (ph. BP) provided the first confirmed breeding record for the Panhandle. A *Chaetura* swift believed to be a Chimney was a good spring find near Boot Springs, *Brewster* 11 Apr (BCa).

A Green Violet-ear took up residence in *Bastrop* 28 Apr+ (ph. †SF et al.), and another one was present near Burr, *Wharton* 11-13 May (†KD). A male Green-breasted Mango present at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 26 Apr (ph. EB) was a first for the U.T.C. Continuing the spate of recent local records, a male Broad-billed Hummingbird was at the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 19 Mar+ and was joined by a female 20 Apr+ (M&ME). Also continuing a trend of recent years, a male White-eared Hummingbird was in the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 11 May+ (fide ML). On a different level altogether was the **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** in the Davis Mountains Resort 23 Apr (†M&ME), providing a first for *Jeff Davis* and the 8th for the state. A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Midland, *Midland* 8 May (D&JM) was noteworthy since this species is much more of a fall migrant in the area. An Anna's Hummingbird nest was found in w. El Paso, *El Paso* 5 Mar (MaS, JZ) producing 2 young by 24 Mar (JKi). This represents the 3rd documented nesting for the state, with previous records from *Jeff Davis* (1976) and *El Paso* (2000). Late and unusual for the season was an imm. male Anna's Hummingbird in the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 2 May+ (ph. M&ME). Noteworthy was a Calliope Hummingbird photographed at South Llano River S.P., *Kimble* 14 Apr (fide RH). This species is much more likely in late summer and fall than the spring on the Edwards Plateau. A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird near Utopia, *Uvalde* 31 Mar–2 Apr (MHe) and a female near Cibolo, *Guadalupe* 16 Apr (SS) provided rare spring records for the Hill Country. An exciting find for North Texas was a Ringed Kingfisher at the L. Worth spillway, *Tarrant* 12 Mar–6 Apr (JCo et al.).



A one-day-wonder Violet-crowned Hummingbird brightened the central Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis County, Texas 23 April 2007. Amazingly, this was the fifteenth species of hummingbird for this location—the top number anywhere in Texas. Photograph by Maryann Eastman.

Single Red-headed Woodpeckers wandered to coastal locations, with one at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 19 Apr (WB) and another at Galveston's Pelican I. 29 Apr (TE). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in *Donley* 5 May (BP) was late for the Panhandle. A pair of Ladder-backed Woodpeckers feeding young 21 Apr in w. *Waller* (ph. JKe) constitutes the first documented nesting record for the county. A family group of Northern Flickers observed at the city park in Sierra Blanca on 5 May (JPa) made for a rare *Hudspeth* breeding record.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

A Greater Pewee at Ft. Bliss 8 May (BZ) was only the 2nd for *El Paso* and represented a very unusual lowland migrant record for the species. A Western Wood-Pewee was heard calling on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 3 May (JSt et al.). A Gray Flycatcher at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., *Randall* 22 Apr (BP) was only the 4th record for the Panhandle. Buff-breasted Flycatchers again returned to the cen. Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis*, with one pair and a territorial male found in mid-Apr+ (†ML et al.). A late Eastern Phoebe was seen on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 12 Apr (JSt). A very late Say's Phoebe was seen at Balcones Canyonlands N.W.R., *Burnet* 25 Apr (BS). A pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers was located at Boot

Spring, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 24 Apr+ (MKo, ML et al.). Dusky-capped Flycatchers were also present in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 19 May+ (†ML, M&ME), with up to 6 birds on at least four territories. A calling Couch's Kingbird in Balmorhea, *Reeves* 26 May (RH) was a county first. A Couch's Kingbird, and possibly a pair, was present at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground, *Brewster* (ME, m.ob.). A Cassin's Kingbird ventured eastward to Lost Maples S.N.A., *Bandera* 5 May (MHe). Three Eastern Kingbirds present at Packery Channel, *Nueces* 17 Mar (MCo, AC) represented an early date for the Corpus Christi area. Farther w., an Eastern Kingbird in *Gray* 30 Mar (MDL) was very early, while another at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 29 Apr (MF) was a very rare migrant in the Region.

Single Bell's Vireos were in n.-cen Texas, including L. Tawakoni S.P., *Hunt* 4 May (RKi), Fox Creek Greenbelt, *Denton* 10 May (LD), and Plano, *Collin* 22 May (PAs). Three presumably nesting Black-capped Vireos were seen in *Somervell* 13 May (DDC, DLi). A pair of Black-capped Vireos was discovered at a nest site at Cedar Hollow, L.

Georgetown, *Williamson* 16-19 May (TFe). Unfortunately, the nesting attempt failed, but this is the same location where a singing male was present the previous year. Most significantly, a singing Black-capped Vireo was found s. of Putnam, *Callahan* 27 May (DDC, DLi) for what is apparently the 2nd county record. A Yellow-throated Vireo at Prairie Creek Park, *Dallas* 3 May (RRA, DHi) and one at Plano Outdoor Learning Center, *Collin* 24 May (PAs) were rare finds for the Region. A territorial Hutton's Vireo was present in w. *Travis* 12 Apr–26 May (BR, JCh); this location is e. of the population that appears to be established in the sw. Hill Country. It was a banner season for Yellow-green Vireos, with at least 7 tallied from Sabine Pass, *Jefferson* to the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron*.

What must have been a stunning spectacle, an estimated 12,500 apparently migrating Blue Jays streamed along the shoreline at Lake Tawakoni S.P., *Hunt* 25 Apr (RKi). Three Brown Jays continue to be seen in the vicinity of Chapeño and Salineño, *Starr* and are the only known individuals presently in the United States (m.ob.). A pair of Tamaulipas Crows again returned to Brownsville, *Cameron* 8 Apr+ (BBu, m.ob.), where they successfully fledged one young. Three Cliff Swallows found in *Gray* 24 Mar (LSa) were very early



Hermit Warblers are always a treat in Texas away from the Trans-Pecos. This female at Port Aransas, Nueces County 21 April 2007 provided a rare Coastal Bend Record but was the second for the county. Photograph by Ron Hillstromb.

for the Panhandle. A Cave Swallow in Kent 15 Mar (AHe) was the earliest recorded for the South Plains, while one in ne. Texas 31 Mar (PB) provided a *Smith* first. A Barn Swallow at L. Tanglewood, Randall 25 Mar (TJ) was early for the Panhandle.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WARBLERS

A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches feeding young at L. Waco, McLennan 17 Apr (FB, JMu) provided a first county nesting record. A Brown-headed Nuthatch well out of habitat near Anderson, Grimes 11 Mar (JO) was a surprise. A Brown Creeper in Bellaire, Harris 14 Apr (DVe) furnished the 2nd latest spring record for the U.T.C. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered near Cibolo, Guadalupe until 20 May (ph. SS et al.). A Veery in Lake Jackson, Brazoria 26 Mar (CRi) tied the early record for the U.T.C. Farther inland, single individuals were noted at Plano, Collin 28 Apr (PAs), Lake Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 4 May (RKi), and Lubbock, Lubbock 19 May (AHe). Apparently territorial Wood Thrushes were found in nw. Travis 20 May (BSt) and Temple, Bell 21 May+ (RPi), both areas away from known nesting sites. A Clay-colored Robin was in Corpus Christi, Nueces 17 May+ (PY, MCo, WS, m.ob.). One of the birds of the season was a Rufous-backed Robin at Santa Ana, Hidalgo

8-13 Mar (RC, MP, †m.ob.) that represented the 4th Lower Rio Grande Valley record for the species. Westward-wandering Brown Thrashers included singles in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis 25 Apr (M&ME) and n. Hudspeth 2 May (JO). A Long-billed Thrasher 16 km ne. of Alpine, Brewster 29 May (BSt) was well outside of the expected range. Crissal Thrashers continue to be found at additional locations around Midland, Midland, confirming that the species is resident in that area (RMS). Cedar Waxwings invaded the coast and South Texas in huge numbers, with counts of around 100 birds reported in many areas during May with a few lingering into early Jun (m.ob.).

Golden-winged Warblers of interest included singles at Harrison 2 May (DBr, MEd), Lake Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 4 (MW) & 19 May (GCo, BoS), and Big Bend's Rio Grande Village, Brewster 13 May (JF). A Virginia's Warbler was at Lubbock, Lubbock 19 May (AHe). Northern Parulas found farther w. than expected included singles at Lubbock, Lubbock 19 May (AHe) and near Fort Davis, Jeff Davis 26 May (RH). Single male Tropical Parulas were in w. Comal 19 Apr-7 May (BFr) and Fort Clark Springs, Kinney 25 Apr (ML). Although the population of Mangrove Warblers was discovered in the Lower Laguna Madre,

Cameron in 2005, the first documented nesting record for Texas and the United States was obtained 14 May (ph. ScC). Chestnut-sided Warblers of note included singles at Lake Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 4 May (RKi), El Paso, El Paso 9 May (SH), and Junction, Kimble 15 May (RH). Lingered Yellow-rumped Warblers included Myrtles at Brazos Bend S.P., Fort Bend 6 May (MKi) and South Padre I., Cameron the same day (PL) and an Audubon's also at South Padre I. 4-5 May (PL et al.). Quite surprising were 2 Black-throated Green Warblers in the Chisos Mountains, Big Bend N.P., Brewster 3 May (MCo). A Townsend's Warbler was far e. at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 26 Apr (EB et al.). The Hermit Warbler at Anzalduas County Park, Hidalgo present during the winter lingered until 9 Apr (PAb, TB). More unexpected was a female Hermit Warbler

at Port Aransas, Nueces 21 Apr (AC, MCo, SCo, MR et al.). A Blackburnian Warbler at L. Wichita Park, Wichita 10 May (SL, DHo) provided only the 2nd county record. A Yellow-throated Warbler wandered to Rio Grande Village, Brewster 26 Apr (JD). Grace's Warblers are rarely encountered in lowland habitats; this season, one was in El Paso, El Paso 8 Apr (JPa), and more unexpectedly, one was at a desert tank in n. Hudspeth 2 May (JO). A likely lingering winterer, a Pine Warbler was in Lubbock, Lubbock 15 Mar (JH).

SA Outside of the extensive Pineywoods of East Texas, Pine Warblers are only known to nest in natural pine forests in two other areas of e.-cen. Texas. So it was with great surprise to learn of nesting Pine Warblers in Robertson 21 Apr+ (RSM). The birds were present in a stand of pines and bald-cypress that were planted between 36 and 46 years ago. The pines are now 18-30 m tall and border another stand of cultivated pines.

A Palm Warbler in Lubbock, Lubbock 28 Apr (AHe) was the first spring sighting in five years. A Blackpoll Warbler at Quintana, Brazoria 28 May (DVe, RW) was late. Cerulean Warblers made an almost unbelievable passage though cen. Texas, with nine reports from Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Guadalupe, Travis,

and Washington spanning 25 Apr–1 May (m.ob.). Prothonotary Warblers in the w. included singles at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 5 May (AHe, Lma), Buffalo L., *Randall* 5 May (LSa), and Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 13 May (S&MP). A great find was a Worm-eating Warbler at Big Bend's Boot Springs, *Brewster* 24 Apr (RBo). A late migrant Worm-eating Warbler was at the Old State Fish Hatchery, *Dallas* 28 May (CRu). Single Ovenbirds made an appearance at Buffalo Springs L., *Lubbock* 19 May (AHe, AvH) and near Canyon, *Randall* 6-12 May (RM, MoS), providing unusual spring records for nw. Texas. A Connecticut Warbler was reported in Austin, *Travis* 13 May (†TE), and details will be reviewed by the state bird records committee. Details were provided of a very early male Mourning Warbler observed at the Montgomery County Preserve 21 Mar (GCl). Hooded Warblers w. of the normal migration corridor included singles at L. Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 1 Apr (RKi, RBa), at Midland, *Midland* 7 May (D&JM), and at Temple, *Bell* 9 May (RPi). A **Slate-throated Redstart** was in Boot Canyon, *Brewster* 25 Apr (†JBa), providing the 9th record for the state.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

There was a bumper crop of Western Tanagers on the U.T.C., with 6 birds reported 3 Apr–7 May (m.ob.). A very late lingering Spotted Towhee was at El Paso, *El Paso* 24 May (BZ). Clay-colored Sparrows wandered to w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 19 Apr and 3 May (JSt). A Brewer's Sparrow in Richardson, *Dallas* 8 May (ph. DHi) provided a first fully documented local regional record. Eastward-wandering Lark Buntings were found at the Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 27 Mar (GCo, GM, BBU, CA) and w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 6-7 Apr (ph. JSt). A Savannah Sparrow at San Bernard, *Brazoria* 23 May (JSt) was late. A very high count of 77 Grasshopper Sparrows was made near Floydada, *Floyd* 26 May (AHe, AvH). Three Le Conte's Sparrows lingered at Granger L., *Williamson* until 5 May (TFe). Always a nice find inland, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was reported at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 20 May (MW). A Song Sparrow in Cove, *Chambers* 27 Apr (PF) was the latest-ever spring record for the U.T.C. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Quintana, *Brazoria* lingered until 4 May (RW et al.). A White-throated Sparrow lingered at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* until 5 May (BBE), while a lingering Harris's Sparrow was near Granger L., *Williamson* 12 May (JLe, KH). An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Sierra Blanca, *Hudspeth* 5 May (†JPa), providing a 3rd county record.

A Black-headed Grosbeak was at Lake Wi-

chita Park, *Wichita* 2 May, and 2 were present 5 May (SL). An early arrival for East Texas, a Blue Grosbeak was in Central Heights, *Nacogdoches* 30 Mar (MHW). Dickcissels were in abundance on the South Plains, as illustrated by a count of 74 near Floydada, *Floyd* 26 May (AHe, AvH). Bobolinks made rare appearances in n.-cen. Texas, with one at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 25 Apr and 15 there 8 May (LL et al.). A Common Grackle made a brief appearance in Alpine, *Brewster* 8 Apr (ML). A male Great-tailed Grackle in *Angelina* 20 Apr (RT) was a nice find in an area where the species does not breed. Bronzed Cowbirds made a very good showing on the South Plains, suggesting that they are becoming established, with at least 26 individuals observed between 21 Apr and 28 May (m.ob.). Two Orchard Orioles at Alazan Bayou W.M.A., *Nacogdoches* 1 Apr (RT) tied the earliest spring record for the Pineywoods. A male Hooded Oriole was in Seabrook, *Galveston* 25 May (ph. VM); this species is being reported with increasing frequency on the U.T.C. Bullock's Orioles were reported in unusually large numbers in the e. part of the state (but w. of the Pineywoods), including a first-year male in *Waller* 16 May (MHo) that furnished a county first record. Red Crossbills nested in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* during Apr (ML), and flocks of 20+, including juvs., were seen on several occasions. Lingered Pine Siskins included singles in *Collin* 1 May (KC) and *Morris* 27 May (DBr, LB).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Peg Abbott (PAb), Charley Amos, Peter Assmann (PAS), Besty Baker (BBa), Ron Baltzegar (RBa), Joe Barnes (JBa), Peter Barnes, Dick Benoit (DBe), John Berner (JBe), Brandon Best (BBE), Alan Blankenship, Clint Boal (CBo), Robert Bond (RBo), Erik Breden, Sally Breed, David Brotherton (DBr), Luaane Brotherton, Charlie Brower (CBr), Tim Brush, Buck Buchanan (BBu), Frank Bumgardner, Winnie Burkett, Karen Carbiener, Barbara Carlson (BCa), Joe Carter (JCa), John Chenoweth (JCh), Bill Clark (BCl), Gary Clark (GCl), Sheridan Coffey (SCo), Scarlet Colley (ScC), Greg Cook (GCo), Arlie Cooksey, **Mel Cooksey** (MCo) (South Texas: 16 Townhouse Lane, Corpus Christi, TX 78412. email: ssi@stx.rr.com), Robert Coon, Joe Cox (JCo), **D. D. Currie** (DDC) (North-central Texas: 2703 Colleen Dr., Arlington, TX 76016. email: ddbirder@sbcglobal.net), Manuel De Leon (MDL), Kevin Dees, Robin Doughty, Lawrence Duhon (LD), Jon Dunn, Marc & Maryann Eastman, Gil Eckrich, Mark Edmund, Alexander Ellis, Ted Eubanks, Paul

Fagala, Tim Fennell (TFe), Josh Ferry, Sharon Finlay, Fitz Fitzpatrick, Mark Flippo, Brush Freeman (BFR), **Bert Frenz** (BeF) (East Texas 221 Rainbow Dr., #12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021. email: bert2@bafrenz.com), Charmaine & Collins Ganson, Bill Godley, Michael Gray (MGr), Mans Grundsten (MaG), Georgette Guernsey, Hayden Haucke, Jill Haukos, Mitch Heindel (MHe), Rhandy Helton, **Anthony Hewetson** (AHe) (Northwest Texas: 4407 36th St., Lubbock TX 79414. email: terrverts@yahoo.com), Aveline Hewetson (AvH), Derek Hill (DHl), Dave Holbert (DHo), Kelly Holligan, Sally Homan, Maggie Honig (MHo), Thomas Johnson, Jan & Tim Kaspar, Joseph Kennedy (JKe), Richard Kinney (RKi), Marilyn Kircus (MKi), John Kiseda (JKi), Mollie Kloepper (MKl), Mark Korducki (MKo), Rich Kostecke (RKO), John Lamar (JLa), Bob Lanier (BLa), Cin-Ty Lee (CTL), Paul Lehman, Jason Leifester (JLe), Lee Lemmons, Dell Little (DLi), Mark Lockwood, Scotty Lofland, Debra Logsdon (DLo), Bill Lupardus (BLu), Victor Madamba, Lori Madry (LMa), Ray Matlack, Don & Joann Merritt, Larry Metz (LMe), Toni-Ann Mistretta (TAM), Gail Morris, John Muldrow (JMu), John O'Neill, Steve & Megan Parrish, **Jim Paton** (JPa) (Trans-Pecos: 4325 Boy Scout Lane, El Paso, TX 79922. email: paton-jn@netzero.net), Dan Patrick, Todd Pepper (TPe), Glenn Perrigo, Barrett Pierce, Randy Pinkston (RPi), Truman Powell (TPo), Mike Powers, Ross Rasmussen (RRa), Ellen Ratoosh, Martin Reid, Bill Reiner, Helen Rejzek, Thomas Riecke, Cecilia Riley (CRi), Rusty Rose (RRo), Chris Runk (CRu), Laura Sare (LSa), Susan Schaezler, Monty Schoenhals (MoS), Jeff Scott (JSc), Marcy Scott (MaS), Mary Scott (MSc), **Willie Sekula** (Central Texas: 7063 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113-2627. email: wsekula@peoplepc.com), Cliff Shackelford, Larry Shriver (LSh), Rachael Smith (RSm), John Sproul (JSp), Tomas Stafstrom, Arlene Steltzer, Jim Stevenson (JSt), Mark Stevenson (MSt), Bob Stone (BoS), Byron Stone (BSt), Rose Marie Stortz (RMS), Kent Taylor, Heidi Trudell, Robert Truss, Don Verser, **Ron Weeks** (Upper Texas Coast: 110 Indian Warrior, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. email: ronweeks@sbcglobal.net), Matt White, John Whittle, Brad Wier, Mimi Hoppe Wolf, Phyllis Yochem, Jimmy Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer. 🌐

Mark W. Lockwood, 402 East Harriet Avenue Alpine, Texas 79830, (mark.lockwood@tpwd.state.tx.us)
Eric Carpenter, 10610 Morado Circle #2325 Austin, Texas 78759, (ecarpe@gmail.com)
Willie Sekula, 7063 County Road 228 Falls City, Texas 78113, (wsekula@peoplepc.com)