

NORTHWEST TEXAS BIRD REPORT
SPRING 2021

Prepared by Anthony Hewetson

TBRC review species are in **bold**. County names are in *italics*. All cited observers are listed, alphabetically, at the end of the report.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK: One Black-bellied Whistling Duck was at various parks in Lubbock, Lubbock Co 16 Mar-18 Apr (Kathy Teague, Jennifer Miller, m.ob., photographs), 2-10 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks at various parks in Hereford, Deaf Smith Co 25 Apr-13 May (Andy Spellman, Vicki Wilmarth, m.ob., photographs), 4 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were seen at the Plainview Duck Pond, Hale Co 14 May (Melba Olsen), and 4 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were seen at Dupree and Leroy Elmore Parks, Lubbock Co 17 May (Sheri Anderson, Joe Cochran, m.ob., photographs) – this was a particularly good scattering of sightings for the region for this expanding species.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: One Greater White-fronted Goose was seen at McGee Lake, Potter Co 3 Apr (K Dean Edwards) – by contemporary standards, this is a rather late date for the region.

SNOW GOOSE: 4 Snow Geese were at various parks in Hereford, Deaf Smith Co 1-4 May (Peggy Trosper, Micah Schulze, m.ob., photographs), one Snow Goose was at McGee Lake, Potter Co 2 May (K Dean Edwards), 12 Snow Geese were at the FM 297 Feedlot, Dallam Co 3 May (Steve Glover), one Snow Goose was at Lake Rita Blanca, Hartley Co 3 May (Drew Harvey), and one Snow Goose was at the Pampa Recreation Area, Gray Co 4 May (Ben Sandstrom) – by contemporary standards, these are very late dates for the region.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: 12 Blue-winged Teals were at Lake McClellan, Gray Co 13 Mar (Rod Murray) and 12 Blue-winged Teals were at the Pleasant Hill Gin Playa, Crosby Co 28 Mar (Mark Lockwood) – though regular in the region in winter, these are rather high numbers for early spring.

CINNAMON TEAL: 37 Cinnamon Teals were at Lake Meredith, Hutchinson Co 18 Mar (James Hamous) – remarkably high numbers for a single site this early in spring.

NORTHERN SHOVELER: 130-245 Northern Shovelers were at McGee Lake, Potter Co 2 May (K Dean Edwards, Steve Glover) and 27 Northern Shovelers were at the Morton WTP, Cochran Co 5 May (Steve Glover) – very good numbers for a single site this late in spring.

AMERICAN WIGEON: 35 American Wigeons were seen at McGee Lake, Potter Co 2 May (K Dean Edwards), 27 American Wigeons were at Lake Rita Blanca, Hartley Co 3 May (Drew Harvey), and one American Wigeon was at White River Lake, Crosby Co 25

May (Mark Lockwood) – the first two reports represented high numbers for this late in the season and the last report represents a rather late date for the species in the region.

GADWALL: 21 Gadwalls were seen at the FM 1054 x FM 1313 Playa, Lynn Co 3 May (Nathan Pieplow) – a very high number for a single site this late in the season.

MEXICAN DUCK: One Mexican Duck was seen along the Canyon Lakes, Lubbock Co 15 Apr (Joel Buford, Jim Crites, m.ob. photographs) – assuming this sighting is accurate (and several eBird reviewers felt this one was solid), this was a bit of an out-of-range bird.

CANVASBACK: 3 Canvasbacks were at Lake Rita Blanca, Hartley Co 3 May (Drew Harvey) – a bit of a late date for the region.

REDHEAD: 13-29 Redheads were at the Cone Playa, Crosby Co 15-24 May (Mark Lockwood, Anthony Hewetson) – very good numbers for this late in the season.

GREATER SCAUP: One Greater Scaup was at Gillham-Howell Park, Terry Co 6 Mar (Manuel De Leon), one Greater Scaup was seen at Lake Two, Lubbock Co 14 Mar (Anthony Hewetson, photographs), and one Greater Scaup was at Llano Estacado Lake, Lubbock Co 16 Apr (Peter Keyel, photographs) – good or average numbers for the region, depending on whether the species is genuinely rare or simply under-reported.

LESSER SCAUP: 3 Lesser Scaups were at Lake Meredith, Moore Co 3 May (Drew Harvey), one Lesser Scaup was at the Lubbock Airport Playa, Lubbock Co 5-13 May (Sheri Anderson), and one Lesser Scaup was at the Division Street Playa, Slaton, Lubbock Co 6 May (Dennis Wall) – by contemporary standards, very late reports for the region.

BUFFLEHEAD: One Bufflehead was at Lake Rita Blanca, Hartley Co 3 May (Steve Glover), one Bufflehead was at the Pampa Recreation Center, Gray Co 4 May (Ben Sandstrom), one Bufflehead was seen at Thompson Park, Potter Co 5-18 May (James Hamous, Doug Smith, m.ob., photographs), and one Bufflehead was seen at Southeast Park, Randall Co 18 May (Mark Hassell) – by contemporary standards, rather late dates for the species in the region.

COMMON MERGANSER: 30 Common Mergansers were at Lake Six, Lubbock Co 1 Mar (Joe Cochran) and 35 Common Mergansers were at Ransom Lake, Lubbock Co 3 Mar (Brad Shine) – high numbers for any site in the region other than White River Lake or Lake Meredith.

LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN: 8-99 Lesser Prairie Chickens were at a site (which must remain undisclosed) in Cochran Co 2 Mar-8 May (Drew Harvey, m.ob., photographs) – the species continued existence in the region is, at best, poorly documented.

HORNED GREBE: One Horned Grebe was seen at Lake Meredith, Hutchinson Co 9 May (Vicki Wilmarth, photographs) – a late date for an increasingly difficult to find species in the region; particularly in the years since the 2009-2013 drought.

EARED GREBE: 18 Eared Grebes were at White River Lake, Crosby Co 8 Apr (Mark Lockwood) and 32 Eared Grebes were at Truscott Brine Lake, Know Co 9 May (Bradley Banner) – high numbers for the sites this late in the season.

CLARK'S GREBE: One Clark's Grebe was seen at Lake Meredith, Moore Co 2-19 May (Steve Glover, m.ob., photographs) – a rare but regular breeding season species in the region; particularly at this site.

WESTERN GREBE: One Western Grebe was at Thompson Park, Potter Co 8-19 May (Micah Schulze, Kevin Long, m.ob., photographs) – a rather late date for the region at any site away from Lake Meredith.

COMMON POORWILL: One Common Poorwill was at White River Lake, Crosby Co 23 Mar (Mark Lockwood) and one Common Poorwill was seen near Morton, Cochran Co 15 May (Drew Harvey, m.ob.) – the first report was rather early for the region; the second report was unusually far west for the species to be found in the region.

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT: One White-throated Swift was seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Randall Co 1-2 Mar (Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus, m.ob., photographs) – formerly a rare winter resident of our canyon lands; after a multi-decade absence seems to be returning to these sites.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: One Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen in a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 21 Apr (Nancy Neill, photographs) – the species is very rare in the region during spring migration.

SANDHILL CRANE: One Sandhill Crane was seen at McGee Lake, Potter Co 2 May (K Dean Edwards) and 14 Sandhill Cranes were seen near Wildarado, Oldham Co 3 May (Steve Glover) – by contemporary standards, rather late dates for the species in the region.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER: One American Golden Plover was seen near Lorenzo, Crosby Co 21 Apr (Mark Lockwood, Brad Shine, photographs) – a very rare migrant in the region.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER: 2 Mountain Plovers were seen near Lehman, Cochran Co 27 Mar (Drew Harvey, Cameron Johnson, photographs) – currently regarded as accidental in southern portions of the region.

MARBLED GODWIT: One Marbled Godwit was seen near Ralls, Crosby Co 16 Apr (Mark Lockwood), 2 Marbled Godwits were at McAlister Park, Lubbock Co 17 Apr (Jim Crites, Jordan Cochran, Whitney Cochran, photographs), one Marbled Godwit was seen

at White River Lake, Crosby Co 18 Apr (Mark Lockwood), 1-2 Marbled Godwits were at the Hale Center Water Treatment Ponds, Hale Co 18-19 Apr (Bobby Schat, Niler Pyeatt), and one Marbled Godwit was at Lake McClellan, Gray Co 21 Apr (Giovanni Walters, m.bo., photographs) – very good numbers and scatter for this very rare spring migrant.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: 5-6 Hudsonian Godwits were seen near Panhandle, Carson Co 18-19 Apr (Barrett Pierce, Laura Kohrt) and one Hudsonian Godwit was seen at the Cone Playa, Crosby Co 18 May (Mark Lockwood) – formerly considered accidental to the region; now considered casual.

SANDERLING: One Sanderling was seen at the Cone Playa, Crosby Co 15 May (Mark Lockwood) – a very rare migrant, bordering on accidental, through the region.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: 1-5 White-rumped Sandpipers were at the Cone Playa, Crosby Co 12-24 May (Mark Lockwood), 18 White-rumped Sandpipers were seen at White River Lake, Crosby Co (Mark Lockwood), and 1-3 White-rumped Sandpipers were seen near Lorenzo, Crosby Co 19 May (Mark Lockwood, Anthony Hewetson) – formerly annual as migrants; now bordering on casual to accidental.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 5 Pectoral Sandpipers were at Lake Six, Lubbock Co 4 May (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) – high numbers for a single sighting in the region during spring.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: One Short-billed Dowitcher was at MacKenzie Park, Lubbock Co 8-9 Apr (Jennifer Miller, Joe Cochran, m.ob., photographs), 3 Short-billed Dowitchers were seen at Lake Rita Blanca, Hartley Co 3 May (Steve Glover), and one Short-billed Dowitcher was seen near Lorenzo, Crosby Co 16-18 May (Mark Lockwood) – a very rare (or under-reported due to difficulties related to identification) spring migrant through the region; the last report was rather late as well.

WILLET: 7 Willets were found at Lake McClellan, Gray Co 21 Apr (Will Britton, Kirsti Carr, m.ob.) and 2 Willets were seen near Lorenzo, Crosby Co 24 May (Anthony Hewetson) – while single birds are fairly regular in the region during migration, reports of multiple birds are exceptionally unusual.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: One Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Givens Park in Plainview, Hale Co 28 Mar (Niler Pyeatt) – a fairly early date for a spring migrant.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: One Wilson's Phalarope found near Lorenzo, Crosby Co 23 Mar (Glenda Kelly) was very early. 800 Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at McGee Lake, Potter Co 2 May (K Dean Edwards), 560 Wilson's Phalaropes were at Lake Rita Blanca, Harley Co 3 May (Drew Harvey), 1360 Wilson's Phalaropes were at the FM 1054 x FM 1313 Playa, Hale Co 3 May (Nathan Pieplow), and 525 Wilson's Phalaropes were seen near Friona, Parmer Co 5 May (Steve Glover) – each of these represents, by contemporary standards, high to very high numbers for single sightings in the region.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: 3-4 Red-necked Phalaropes were seen at Lake Rita Blanca, Hartley Co 3 May (Steve Glover, Drew Harvey) – a very rare migrant in the region; even more unusual in multiples.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: 1-3 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Lake Six, Lubbock Co 20 Mar (Joel Buford, Peter Keyel, m.ob.) and 2 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen over the TTU HSC Campus, Lubbock Co 22 Mar (Anthony Hewetson) – rather late reports for the region.

LAUGHING GULL: 2 Laughing Gulls were seen a Lake Meredith, Hutchinson Co 8-17 May (Brad Shine, Laura Shine, m.ob., photographs) –accidental to the region; one of a handful of reports for the panhandle proper.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: 64-100 Franklin's Gulls were at Lake McGee, Potter Co 16 Apr-2 May (Joe Kipper, K Dean Edwards), 34 Franklin's Gulls were seen at White River Lake, Crosby Co 24 Apr (Mark Lockwood), 11-13 Franklin's Gulls were seen at Lake Rita Blanca, Hartley Co 25 Apr-3 May (Chris Brobin, Steve Glover), and 43 Franklin's Gulls were seen near Friona, Parmer Co 5 May (Steve Glover) – unusually high numbers for single sites and unusually high numbers overall for the region.

RING-BILLED GULL: 2-6 Ring-billed Gulls were at Lake Meredith, Hutchinson Co frn 17-22 May (Rod Goodwin, Vicki Wilmarth) – a late record for the region; possibly due to the slow return to and passage through the region after a very severe weather event in February.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: One adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen at Lake Six, Lubbock Co 14-17 Apr (Jordan Cochran, Anthony Hewetson, m.ob, photographs) – casual, at best, to the southern portions of my region.

FORSTER'S TERN: 35 Forster's Terns were seen at Lake Meredith, Moore Co 22 Apr (Rod Goodwin) – unusually high numbers for a single report anywhere in the region.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT: One Neotropic Cormorant was at the Canadian Bridge Park, Hemphill Co 2 Apr (Marla Hibbitts, Troy Hibbitts, photographs), one Neotropic Cormorant was seen near Woodlands, Potter Co 28 Apr (K Dean Edwards), and one Neotropic Cormorant was seen at Pampa Recreation Park, Gray Co 4 May (Ben Sandstrom, photographs) – these reports illustrate the continued northwards and westward expansion of the species into the region.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 18-44 American White Pelicans were at White River Lake, Crosby Co 23 Mar-6 May (Mark Lockwood) and 21-40 American White Pelicans were seen at Lake Rita Blanca, Hartley Co 23-25 Apr (Ellen Schwenne, Max Schwenne, m.ob.) – though the species is regular in the region in small numbers, these reports were outstanding in terms of numbers.

AMERICAN BITTERN: One American Bittern was found at MacKenzie Park, Lubbock Co 21 Mar (Anthony Hewetson) – a casual, bordering on annual, visitor to the region.

LEAST BITTERN: One Least Bittern was seen at Lake Six, Lubbock Co 3 May (Anthony Hewetson) – a very rare summer visitor to the region; the species has bred at this particular site.

BALD EAGLE: One Bald Eagle was seen at Lake Palo Duro, Hansford Co 11 May (Mackenzie Goldthwait, Doug Kibbe) – a rather late report for the region as the species is, more and more, a winter resident.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: One Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 4 May (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) – a late date for this species in the region.

HARRIS'S HAWK: One Harris's Hawk was at the Himmel Farm, Crosby Co 13 Mar (Kelly Himmel), 1-2 Harris's Hawks were in the TTU HSC area, Lubbock Co 16 Mar-14 Apr (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson), one Harris's Hawk was at City Farms, Lubbock Co 10 Apr (Sheri Anderson), and one Harris's Hawk was seen at Clapp Park, Lubbock Co 12 Apr-4 May (Joe Cochran, Anthony Hewetson, photographs) – this species remains a rare visitor to the region, though successful breeding has been reported in some years.

GOLDEN EAGLE: One Golden Eagle was seen near Morton, Cochran Co 2 Apr (Will Britton, Kirsti Carr) – by contemporary standards, a very late report for the region.

SHORT-EARED OWL: 2 Short-eared Owls were seen near Morton, Cochran Co 15 Apr (Wyatt Egelhoff) – another rather late report for the region.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: One Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at the V8 Ranch, Lubbock Co 1 May (Angelina Zappia), one Red-headed Woodpecker was seen near Morton, Cochran Co 13 May (Sam Harryman), and one Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 25-30 May (Jim Crites) – all quite west of the usual range in the region; the Cochran County record was truly exceptional.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: One male Red-bellied Woodpecker (paired with a female Golden-fronted Woodpecker) worked on a nest cavity at Dupree Park, Lubbock Co 22-30 May (Cathy Cochran, Joe Cochran, m.ob., photographs) – the two species occasionally hybridize in the region; generally much further to the east.

DOWNY WOODPECKER: One Downy Woodpecker was seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 22 May (Peter Keyel) – a very late date for this far west in the region where the species is typically a winter visitor.

HAIRY WOODPECKER: One Hairy Woodpecker was seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Randall Co 1 May (Andrew Eberly) – a late date and a bit away from the species typical haunts in the region.

CRESTED CARACARA: One Crested Caracara was seen near Aspermont, Stonewall Co 12 Mar (Holly Schuh, Liam Wolff) – status uncertain in this rather poorly-birded portion of my region; accidental elsewhere in the region.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: One Western Kingbird was seen in central Lubbock, Lubbock Co 25 Mar (Anthony Hewetson) – a few days early; the species trends earlier with each passing year.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD: One Cassin's Kingbird was at MacKenzie Park, Lubbock Co 17 May (Joe Cochran) – a rather late report for this far east in the region.

EASTERN KINGBIRD: One Eastern Kingbird was seen at Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 3 May (Jordan Cochran, Whitney Cochran) and one Eastern Kingbird found below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 3-10 May (Jim Crites, Anthony Hewetson) – both sightings were at the western edge of the species' regular scatter in our region.

ALDER FLYCATCHER: One singing Alder Flycatcher was reported at Clapp Park, Lubbock Co 19 May (Jim Crites) – very rarely reported in the region as birds sing rarely during migration and vocalizations are required, given local birders' familiarity with the species, to separate this species from Willow Flycatcher.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: One Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen at the Lockwood Farm, Crosby Co 23 May (Mark Lockwood) – accidental to the region with very few reports supported by good details.

DUSKY FLYCATCHER: One Dusky Flycatcher was seen at Clapp Park, Lubbock Co 26-27 Mar (Joe Cochran, Jim Crites, m.ob. photographs) – not only very rare to the region but an surprisingly early date.

GRAY FLYCATCHER: One Gray Flycatcher was seen at the Wheeler Ranch, Crosby Co 24 Apr (Mark Lockwood) – a rare migrant through the region; particularly unusual this far east in the region.

BLACK PHOEBE: One Black Phoebe was at Jennings Park, Lubbock Co 26-27 Mar (Joe Cochran, Erik Wolf, m.ob., photographs) and one Black Phoebe reappeared at Lubbock Lake Landmark, Lubbock Co 28 Mar (Joe Cochran, Anthony Hewetson, m.ob., photographs) – though the species is becoming regular in the region, this is the first time that birds were reported from several seasons in a row.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: One Vermilion Flycatcher was at Jennings Park, Lubbock Co 26-31 Mar (Holly Bundock, Anthony Hewetson, m.ob., photographs) and one Vermilion Flycatcher was seen at Monument Lake, Bailey Co 3 Apr (Matt Brady, Ryan Shaw, m.ob., photographs) – status uncertain in the region but appears to be expanding northward and westward.

NORTHERN SHRIKE: One Northern Shrike was seen at the Rita Blanca Grasslands, Dallam Co 11-14 Mar (Nu Perera, m.ob. photographs) – by contemporary standards, this was a rather persistent bird for the region.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: One White-eyed Vireo was found at White River Lake, Crosby Co 12 May (Mark Lockwood, photographs) and one White-eyed Vireo was seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Randall Co 29 May (Doug Smith, photographs) – accidental to the region; may be expanding into the region from the southeast.

BELL'S VIREO: One Bell's Vireo was found near Pampa, Gray Co 22 May (Christian Walker, photographs) – becoming regular to the south and to the east but county records in ever further to the north and west counties remain noteworthy.

CASSIN'S VIREO: One Cassin's Vireo was found at Lamb County Sandhills Historical Marker, Lamb Co 5 May (Steve Glover) – the rarest of the three 'solitary' vireos in the region; reports remain noteworthy.

PLUMBEOUS VIREO: 2 Plumbeous Vireos was seen at Veteran's Park in Hereford, Deaf Smith Co 13 May (Vicki Wilmarth) – very rare in the panhandle proper though this could be a result of under-reporting.

RED-EYED VIREO: 1-2 Red-eyed Vireos were reported from below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 3-4 May (Joe Cochran, Drew Harvey, m.ob., photographs) – formerly considered accidental to the region; now closing on annual.

STELLER'S JAY: One Steller's Jay was reported from an Amarillo yard, Potter Co 2-6 May (Anette Carlisle, m.ob., photographs) – accidental to the region with May records very unusual.

WOODHOUSE'S SCRUB JAY: One Woodhouse's Scrub Jay was seen at Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, Bailey Co 7 Mar (Audrey Curtis, Nicholas Wiram) and one Woodhouse's Scrub Jay was seen in Glenrio, Deaf Smith Co 13 Mar (Rod Murray) – accidental this far west in the region; the bird is thought to be part of the movement of songbirds from the northwest over the course of winter and early spring.

COMMON RAVEN: One Common Raven was reported near Morton, Cochran Co 2 Mar (John McIntyre), one Common Raven was reported from west Amarillo, Potter Co 16 Mar (Jordan Cochran, Whitney Cochran), 1-2 Common Ravens were seen at McGee Lake, Potter Co 3 Apr-18 May (James Hamous), and one Common Raven over a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 14 May (Anthony Hewetson, photographs) – the reports from the portion of the region that is not known to have been re-occupied by the species moving in from the southeast and from the northwest.

BANK SWALLOW: One Bank Swallow was seen at the LEAS Nature Trail, Lubbock Co 27 Mar (Phillip Kite), 3 Bank Swallows were at Clapp Park, Lubbock Co 29 Mar (Joe Cochran), and 20 Bank Swallows were seen at the FM 1054 x FM 1313 Playa, Lynn Co 3 May (Nathan Pieplow) – the first two reports were rather early; the last report is an unusually high number for a single sighting.

TREE SWALLOW: 75 Tree Swallows were seen at Lake Meredith, Moore Co 4 Apr (James Hamous) – a large number for a spring report.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: One Northern Rough-winged Swallow was seen at Lake Two, Lubbock Co 14 Mar (Anthony Hewetson) – a very early date for the region.

CAVE SWALLOW: 6 Cave Swallows were found near Clarendon, Donley Co 1 May (Steve Glover) – still continuing with the inexorable march north and west into the region.

BUSHTIT: 4 Bushtits were found at the Lubbock Cemetery, Lubbock Co 1 Mar (Joe Cochran) – popped back up at this site, well west of the usual range by contemporary standards, after disappearing from the site during the February weather event.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: One Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen in a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 7 Apr (William Wenthe), one Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at Crescent Park in Littlefield, Lamb Co 18 Apr (Bradley Banner), 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen at Thompson Park, Potter Co 18 Apr (Brad Shine), and one Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at Southeast Park, Randall Co 4 May (Steve Glover) – by contemporary standards, all late records – typifying the response of our small songbirds to the severe weather event of February with a disappearance from the region followed by a late reappearance and passage through the region.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: One White-breasted Nuthatch was seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Randall Co 30 Apr (Mark Hassell) and one White-breasted Nuthatch was seen in a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 3 May (Jordan Cochran) – more somewhat to rather late reports of migrant songbirds.

WINTER WREN: One Winter Wren was seen at Lake Rita Blanca, Hartley Co 3 May (Drew Harvey) – by contemporary standards, a very late report for the region.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: 1-3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen at Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Randall Co 22-23 May (Doug Smith, Sue Smith, photographs) and one Ruby-crowned Kinglet seen at the Lockwood Farm, Crosby Co 24 May (Mark Lockwood) – more late dates for passage songbirds.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD: 7 Western Bluebirds were reported from the Wheeler Ranch, Crosby Co 16 Mar (Mark Lockwood) – very good numbers for this late in the region AND this far east in the region.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: 2 Mountain Bluebirds were seen in Amarillo, Potter Co 1 May (James Hamous, Vicki Wilmarth, photographs), one Mountain Bluebird was seen near Fritch, Potter Co 2 May (Steve Glover), and one Mountain Bluebird was seen at the Wheeler Ranch, Crosby Co 17 May (Mark Lockwood) – three late to very late reports for this species in the region.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: One Townsend's Solitaire was seen at the Farwell Country Club, Parmer Co 3-4 May (Jeff Dawson, m.ob) and one Townsend's Solitaire was seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 10 May (jim Crites) – two very late reports for this species in the region.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: One Gray-cheeked Thrush was seen at Clapp Park, Lubbock Co 4 May (Anthony Hewetson) – formerly casual in the region, particularly during wet years; now accidental.

GRAY CATBIRD: One Gray Catbird was at Lake Six, Lubbock Co 1 Mar-4 May (Anthony Hewetson, m.ob.) and one Gray Catbird persisted in a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 1 Mar-7 May – both were birds that apparently, despite the intense winter weather event during February, successfully overwintered in the region.

SAGE THRASHER: Individual records were not exciting but the species experienced an unusually strong movement throughout the period.

CEDAR WAXWING: 3000+ Cedar Waxwings were tallied at Palo Duro Canyon State Par, Randall Co 12 Mar (Peggy Troster) – this report was representative of the strength of this irruptive event. 13 Cedar Waxwings were in a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 29 May (Jordan Cochran, Whitney Cochran), 2 Cedar Waxwings were in another Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 30 May (Anthony Hewetson), and 10 Cedar Waxwings were reported from a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 31 May (Jordan Cochran) – these late reports were representative of the protracted nature of this irruptive event.

EVENING GROSBEAK: 1-7 Evening Grosbeaks were reported from Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Randall Co 1-18 Mar (Hannah Tripp, Maddie Pearson, m.ob., photographs) and one Evening Grosbeak was reported from White River Lake, Crosby Co 1-8 Apr (Mark Lockwood) – formerly a casual winter visitor to the region; now so rarely encountered that it is a state review species.

CASSIN'S FINCH: One Cassin's Finch was reported from Buster Long Park, Lubbock Co 23 Apr (Lorena Burkett, photographs) – casual to the region during winter; this was a remarkably late report.

PINE SISKIN: 300 Pine Siskins were seen near Garcia, Deaf Smith Co 27 Mar (Peggy Troster) – a report illustrative of the strength of the irruptive event. 120 Pine Siskins were found at Stanford Park in Plain, Youkum Co 3 May (Nathan Pieplow) – a report illustrative of the strength and protracted nature of the irruptive event. 3 Pine Siskins were seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Randall Co 29 May (Mark Hassell) – a report illustrative of the strongly protracted nature or the irruptive even.

LESSER GOLDFINCH: While individual reports were not startling, the number of reports and number of birds that wintered in the southern portions of the region was unprecedented.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: 4 American Goldfinches were at Ransom Lake, Lubbock Co 18 May (Sheri Anderson), 3 American Goldfinches were at the FM 385 by Canadian River crossing, Oldham Co 19 May (Dale Pate), and one American Goldfinch was below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 23 May (Anthony Hewetson, m.ob) – three late reports of the species in the region.

AMERICAN PIPIT: 18 American Pipits were seen at White River Lake, Crosby Co 3 Mar (Mark Lockwood) – by contemporary standards, a large number for a single report from the region during spring.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR: One Chestnut-collared Longspur was reported from near Morton, Cochran Co 10 Apr (Drew Harvey, Brad Shine, m.ob.) – a late report after a very poor season for the species in the region.

THICK-BILLED LONGSPUR: One Thick-billed Longspur was reported from near Lehman, Cochran Co 10 Apr (Matt Brady, m.ob) – a late report after a very poor season for the species in the region.

LARK SPARROW: One Lark Sparrow was seen at Rita Blanca Grasslands, Dallam Co 9 Mar (Wyatt Egelhoff) – a fairly early date for this far north in the region.

BREWER'S SPARROW: One Brewer's Sparrow was seen at the Wheeler Ranch, Crosby Co 4 Mar (Mark Lockwood) – a relatively early date. 13 Brewer's Sparrows were seen at the Wheeler Ranch, Crosby Co 3 Apr (Mark Lockwood) – very large numbers for a single site in our region. One Brewer's Sparrow was reported near Aspermont, Stonewall Co 1 May (Andrew Spencer) – well east of the species' usual movement through the region. 3 Brewer's Sparrows were seen at the Purina Mountain Bike Trail, Lubbock Co 16 May (Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson) – a very late date for the region.

DARK-EYED JUNCO: One Dark-eyed Junco was seen at Clapp Park, Lubbock Co 1 May (Bobby Schat) – a rather late date for the region.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: One White-crowned Sparrow was seen near Groom, Carson Co 22 May (Christian Walker) – a rather late date.

VESPER SPARROW: One Vesper Sparrow was seen at Dupree Park, Lubbock Co 17 May (Joe Cochran) – another rather late date.

SONG SPARROW: 2 Song Sparrows were seen and heard at Lake Rita Blanca, Hartley Co 3 May (Drew Harvey) – by contemporary standards, a rather late date.

SPOTTED TOWHEE: One Spotted Towhee was seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 22 May (Peter Keyel) – another rather late date for one of our wintering sparrows.

CANYON TOWHEE: 2 Canyon Towhees were seen in Glenrio, Deaf Smith Co 26 Mar (J Joseph) – a bit out of range, well northwest of the species usual haunts in the region.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: One Yellow-breasted Chat was seen at Yoakum County Park, Yoakum Co 30 Apr (Carolos Fernando Ramirez Torres) – rarely reported, even during strong migrations, from the western counties in our region.

BOBOLINK: 4 Bobolinks were found near Morton, Cochran Co 8 May (Johny Nelson, m.ob) and 4 Bobolinks were found near Becton, Lubbock Co 21 May (Drew Harvey, photographs) - casual to the region; multiple reports of multiple birds made for an exceptional season!

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: While individual reports were not staggeringly amazing, the strength and duration of the movement through the entire period was exceptional!

BRONZED COWBIRD: One Bronzed Cowbird was seen at Lake Six, Lubbock Co 28 Mar (Anthony Hewetson) – this sighting stuck the season as the first winter record where the species, albeit in small numbers, successfully overwintered.

OVENBIRD: One Ovenbird was seen at Clapp Park, Lubbock Co 28-30 Apr (Brad Shine, Todd McGrath) and one Ovenbird was seen in a Plainview yard, Hale Co 5 May (Niler Pyeatt) – formerly considered accidental to the region, now closing on annual and these sightings were part of an eastern flavor to this spring's warbler movement through the region.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: One Blue-winged Warbler was seen at Palo Duro State Park, Randall Co 30 Apr (Vicki Buchwald, Karen Lund) and one Blue-winged Warbler was seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 3-4 May (Anthony Hewetson, Drew Harvey) – accidental to the region; fewer than a handful of records for the region in the last two decades.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Up to 3 Prothonotary Warblers were seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 4-7 Apr (Anthony Hewetson, Drew Harvey, m.ob., photographs) – while close to annual as a migrant through the region, multiple birds during a single season was a startlement.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: One Cape May Warbler was seen at Boy's Ranch, Oldham Co 3 May (Steve Glover) – accidental to the region; less than a handful of records for the entire region.

NORTHERN PARULA: One Northern Parula was seen at Bole's Lake Road, Lubbock Co 20 Apr (Phillip Kite) – formerly considered casual to the region; now regarded as annual but very rare.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: One Magnolia Warbler was seen at Southeast Park, Randall Co 5 May (Silas Fischer) – formerly considered accidental during migration; now best seen as casual and most likely to be seen during seasons with an eastern flavor.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: 1-4 Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 3-4 May (Anthony Hewetson, Joe Cochran, m.ob., photographs) – close to annual as a spring migrant but the numbers seen was a veritable wavelet by the region's standards.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: One Blackpoll Warbler was seen at the Thompson Grove Picnic Area, Dallam Co 3 May (Steve Glover) – formerly considered accidental to the region; now seen as casual.

PALM WARBLER: One Palm Warbler was found at Southeast Park, Randall Co 4 May (Steve Glover) – casual, closing on annual, as a spring migrant – most likely during eastern pushes of warblers.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: 1-3 Black-throated Green Warblers were seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 3-4 May (Joe Cochran, Brad Shine, m.ob., photographs) – close to annual as a spring migrant but the numbers seen by several observers were exceptional for a single site.

SUMMER TANAGER: Up to 2 counter-singing males were seen at Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 25 May to the end of the period (Jim Crites, Anthony Hewetson, m.ob., photographs) – the species has been documented as a breeder as close as Crosby County; these birds seemed intent on shifting the range one county westward.

LAZULI BUNTING: 3-4 Lazuli Buntings were seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 3-23 May (Jordan Cochran, Jim Crites, m.ob., photographs), 3-4 Lazuli Buntings were in a Plainview yard, Hale Co 4-6 May (Melba Olsen), and up to 6 Lazuli Buntings were at a wooded playa in southeast Lubbock, Lubbock Co 18 May (Sheri Anderson) – though the species is annual as a migrant, numbers reported by some observers were exceptional!

DICKCISSEL: 3 Dickcissels were found near Booker, Lipscomb Co 9 Apr (Barrett Pierce) – a fairly early date for the region.

Cited observers: Sheri Anderson, Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus, Bradley Banner, Matt Brady, Will Britton, Chris Brobin, Vicki Buchwald, Joel Buford, Holly Bundock, Lorena Burkett, Anette Carlisle, Kirsti Carr, Cathy Cochran, Joe Cochran, Jordan Cochran, Whitney Cochran, Jim Crites, Audrey Curtis, Jeff Dawson, Manuel De Leon, Andrew Eberly, K Dean Edwards, Wyatt Egelhoff, Silas Fischer, Steve Glover, Mackenzie Goldthwait, Rod Goodwin, James Hamous, Sam Harryman, Drew Harvey, Mark Hassell, Anthony Hewetson, Marla Hibbitts, Troy Hibbitts, Kelly Himmel, Cameron Johnson, J Joseph, Glenda Kelly, Peter Keyel, Doug Kibbe, Joe Kipper, Phillip Kite, Laura Kohrt, Mark Lockwood, Kevin Long, Karen Lund, Todd McGrath, John McIntyre, Jennifer Miller, Rod Murray, Nancy Neill, Johny Nelson, Melba Olsen, Dale Pate, Maddie Pearson, Nu Perera, Nathan Pieplow, Barrett Pierce, Niler Pyeatt, Ben Sandstrom, Bobby Schat, Holly Schuh, Micah Schulze, Ellen Schwenne, Max Schwenne, Ryan Shaw, Brad Shine, Laura Shine, Doug Smith, Sue Smith, Andy Spellman, Andrew Spencer, Kathy

Teague, Carlos Fernando Ramirez Torres, Hannah Tripp, Peggy Trosper, Christian Walker, Dennis Wall, Giovanni Walters, William Wenthe, Vicki Wilmarth, Nicholas Wiram, Erik Wolf, Liam Wolff, Angelina Zappia.