

Trans-Pecos region of Texas – Fall 2020 (1 August 2020 – 30 November 2020)

Noteworthy Bird Sightings

Compiled by Jim Paton and Steven W. Cardiff

Counties Covered: Brewster, Crane, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, Val Verde, Ward, Winkler

PART 1 of 2 - El Paso area (El Paso and Hudspeth Counties)

Sub-regional compiler: Jim Paton

El Paso area Seasonal Summary:

It was a remarkable fall with lots of birder activity. The El Paso area saw almost no monsoonal moisture, part of a widespread problem of drought and wildfires across the montane western US. This resulted in record showings for mountain migrants rarely seen in the lowlands, particularly Williamson's Sapsucker, Hermit Warbler, and Hepatic Tanager. Migrants were clearly congregating in well-watered urban oases. Aside from strong cold fronts 10-11 Sep and 25-27 Oct, weather was generally warm and allowed for numerous late lingering insectivores. No fewer than twenty-seven species of warbler were recorded in *El Paso*, including a county first Bay-breasted Warbler. Montane irruptives were hard to categorize – numerous species were represented, but, aside from a big early push of Pine Siskins, numbers of any one species were generally low and the anticipated deep and broad montane irruption failed to truly materialize. Something was up with juncos: drought presumably prompted a very early movement of Dark-eyed "Gray-headed" Juncos, numerous Dark-eyed "Red-backed" Juncos, and multiple Yellow-eyed Juncos. Although there was little shorebird habitat, there were some notable records. Among the best rarities were Black Scoter, Ruddy Ground-Doves, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Common Black Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireos, Clark's Nutcrackers, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler, Red-faced Warblers, "Slate-colored" Fox Sparrows, and Yellow-eyed Juncos.

Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) species in **bold**. Cited observers listed alphabetically at the end of the report.

Notable Species observed during the period:

CANVASBACK – A pair of Canvasbacks at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 3 Oct (Jim Paton) were early.

BLACK SCOTER – A female Black Scoter dropped in at Keystone Heritage Park, El Paso 28-29 Oct (ph. Michael Harvey, m.ob.); there are fewer than five records for *El Paso*.

RUDDY GROUND DOVE – A female Ruddy Ground Dove in an El Paso, *El Paso* yard 21 Nov+ was joined by a male 26 Nov+ (ph. Barry Zimmer) and a pair was in west El Paso 29 Nov+ (ph. Jim Paton). Ruddy Ground Dove staged a very strong movement into the Southwest this fall.

RIVOLI'S HUMMINGBIRD – An immature male Rivoli's Hummingbird visited an El Paso, *El Paso* yard 6 Sep (John Kiseda).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – A juvenile Ruby-throated Hummingbird was in an El Paso, *El Paso* yard 4-22 Oct (ph. Barry Zimmer). In recent years Ruby-throated Hummingbird has proven to be a rare but regular fall migrant through El Paso, mostly in late Sep and Oct, after most Black-chinned Hummingbirds have departed.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD – At least four Aug records of Anna's Hummingbird in El Paso, *El Paso* (John Kiseda, Ad Konings, Barry Zimmer), spanning the entire month, were unusual and likely drought related. Typical arrival dates are about the third week of Sep.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD – An immature male Costa's Hummingbird was in an El Paso, *El Paso* yard late Oct- 13 Nov (ph. John Kiseda).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD – There were two Broad-billed Hummingbirds in El Paso, *El Paso*: a male 20-22 Aug (ph. John Kiseda) and a female 18-29 Oct then 13-18 Nov (ph. Liz Walsh).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER – An American Golden-Plover was in Dell City, *Hudspeth* 24 Sep (ph. Jim Paton) and one near Ft. Hancock, *Hudspeth* 4-10 Oct (Kim Garwood, ph. Willie Sekula) was joined by a second on the latter date (ph. Clayton Leopold, Jeff Sexton). There was only one previous county record.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – A Buff-breasted Sandpiper near Dell City 10 Sep (ph. Jim Paton, Barry Zimmer) was the second for *Hudspeth*.

RED PHALAROPE – A Red Phalarope was at the Jonathan Rogers Wastewater Treatment Plant, *El Paso* 8 Nov (Peter Holder, ph. Kevin Floyd).

SABINE'S GULL – Juvenile Sabine's Gulls were at the Jonathan Rogers Wastewater Treatment Plant, *El Paso* 3 Oct (ph. Kevin Floyd, Vicki Milne) and at Tornillo Reservoir, *El Paso* 17 Oct (Jim Paton).

LEAST BITTERN – Rarely reported in the El Paso area but likely overlooked, four Least Bitterns were calling near dusk along the Rio Grande in central *Hudspeth* 9 Sep (Justin Bosler).

TRICOLORED HERON – A juvenile Tricolored Heron was along the Rio Grande in central *Hudspeth* 9 Sep (Justin Bosler).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were west to the El Paso area with one at Ascarate Park, *El Paso* 4 Aug (ph. John Kiseda) and two near Dell City, *Hudspeth* 15 Sep (ph. Ad Konings) with one present on the following day (Jim Paton).

TURKEY VULTURE – Small numbers of Turkey Vulture again lingered through fall around Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* with the high Nov count eight there on 28 Nov (ph. Liz Walsh).

WHITE-TAILED KITE – Up to three, but more typically one, White-tailed Kites were spotted off and on through the period at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* (John Sproul, m.ob.). Farther east in the county a pair was present all period near Fabens (ph. Matthew Sim) with one near Socorro 10 and 30 Nov (ph. Matthew Sim).

COMMON BLACK HAWK – An adult Common Black Hawk soared over west El Paso, *El Paso* 4 Oct (ph. Jim Paton); there are fewer than ten county records.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK – A juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk in Dell City 17 Oct (ph. Christian Walker) was a first for *Hudspeth*.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – Three Broad-winged Hawks in El Paso, *El Paso* 26-28 Sep (Kevin Floyd, John Groves, Jim Paton) was a pretty typical fall number for this rare but regular migrant.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK – A Ferruginous Hawk in Dell City, *Hudspeth* 3 Oct (Jim Paton) was about two weeks early.

FLAMMULATED OWL – The fact that three or four migrant Flammulated Owls were found in *El Paso* suggests that many more actually passed through. The ones in Memorial Park 27 and 28 Sep (ph. John Groves, m.ob.) were thought to be different birds and El Paso yards hosted singles 30 Sep (ph. Barry Zimmer) and 30 Sep – 1 Oct (ph. Michael Harvey).

LONG-EARED OWL – A Long-eared Owl in NW *Hudspeth* 3 Oct (ph. Jim Paton) was clearly a migrant while one at Hueco Tanks State Historic Site, *El Paso* 21 Nov (Kevin Floyd) was at a regular wintering location.

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER – A Lewis's Woodpecker in El Paso, *El Paso* 4 Oct (ph. Jim Paton) was early but did not presage a bigger movement.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER – Williamson's Sapsucker had a remarkable fall with at least eight *El Paso* records 10 Sep (ph. Eric Enders) – 25 Nov seen by numerous observers being about ten times the typical fall showing. Three records for *Hudspeth* of five birds (ph. Jim Paton) almost doubled its previous total of birds. Drought was surely responsible for this lowland movement.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – In addition to several expected *El Paso* records in late Oct (Ad Konings, Barry Zimmer), one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Dell City 22 Oct (ph. Jim Paton) and one in the Indio Mountains 27 Nov (Michael Harvey) were just the third and fourth for *Hudspeth*.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – An Olive-sided Flycatcher in El Paso, *El Paso* 16 Oct (ph. Liz Walsh) was at least two weeks past typical departure dates.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE – A wood-pewee, presumably Western, at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 6 Nov (John Sproul) was notably late.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER – A silent Acadian Flycatcher in El Paso, *El Paso* 4 Sep (ph. Barry Zimmer), extensively photographed and independently identified by multiple experts, was just the third local record.

LEAST FLYCATCHER – A Least Flycatcher in El Paso, *El Paso* 1 Nov (ph. Barry Zimmer) was very late.

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER – A Hammond's Flycatcher lingered late in an El Paso, *El Paso* yard 20 Oct+ (ph. Jim Paton).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – Following up on a July report, two Vermilion Flycatchers in northeast El Paso, *El Paso* 4 Sep (Barry Zimmer) strongly suggested nesting. Vermilion Flycatcher is a local nester in *Hudspeth* but, despite much apparently appropriate habitat, there are no known *El Paso* nesting locations.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – Three Great Crested Flycatchers in *El Paso* was an excellent showing: Rio Bosque Wetlands Park 5 Sep (ph. Randy Hesford), an El Paso yard 13 Sep (ph. Barry Zimmer), and Memorial Park 3 Oct (ph. Kevin Floyd, Vicki Milne).

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER – A Brown-crested Flycatcher was in Memorial Park, *El Paso* 15-18 Aug (ph. Barry Zimmer, m.ob.) with likely the same one there 24 Aug (Glen Wilbur, Jay Wilbur).

TROPICAL KINGBIRD – The nesting Tropical Kingbirds at Ascarate Park, *El Paso* lingered through at least Sep (John Kiseda, m.ob.). Lone silent Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds about ten miles away in west El Paso 27 Aug (ph. Liz Walsh) and 27 Sep (ph. Ad Konings) hinted at an expanding foothold in the county.

BELL'S VIREO – A Bell's Vireo that lingered late in an El Paso, *El Paso* yard 21 Sep – 7 Nov (ph. Jim Paton) was at least six weeks past expected departure dates.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – A Yellow-throated Vireo at Memorial Park, *El Paso* 7-8 Aug (ph. Samantha Dominguez, m. ob.) was very early and a first for Aug, and a second was in El Paso, *El Paso* 8-18 Sep (ph. Jim Paton). Yellow-throated Vireo is less than annual in the El Paso area.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO – Blue-headed Vireos were in El Paso, *El Paso* 19-30 Sep (ph. Jim Paton) and near Dell City, *Hudspeth* 24 Sep (ph. Jim Paton).

WARBLING VIREO – Warbling Vireos typically linger into the first week of Oct, but a bird in El Paso, *El Paso* 18 Oct (Barry Zimmer) was late and one in another El Paso yard through 29 Oct (ph. Michael Harvey) was record so.

RED-EYED VIREO – The two El Paso, *El Paso* records were both on the late side: 2 Oct (ph. Jim Paton) and 22-24 Oct (ph. Michael Harvey).

WOODHOUSE'S SCRUB-JAY – Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay is typically one of the most regular montane irruptives in *El Paso* but this year it had a poor showing with the first on 27 Sep (John Groves) being late and with only a very few seen thereafter.

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER – Two single observer records were made in late Sep of Clark's Nutcracker in El Paso for very rare *El Paso* records: 29 Sep on the west slope of the Franklin Mountains (Jane Poss) and 30 Sep along the east side of the Franklins (Barry Zimmer).

CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN – Impressive numbers of Chihuahuan Ravens stage in fall in the agricultural fields around Dell City, *Hudspeth* as indicated by the 850 carefully counted from photographs on 5 Sep (Ad Konings).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – Small numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were in *El Paso* and *Hudspeth* through the period with the first recorded on 3 Sep (Jim Paton).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – Starting in mid-Sep, fair numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches were in El Paso, *El Paso* neighborhoods through the period, with as many as three or four seen in a day in choice neighborhoods (m.ob.).

PYGMY NUTHATCH – By far the rarest nuthatch in *El Paso*, a Pygmy Nuthatch was in west El Paso 25 Oct – 8 Nov (ph. John Groves, Ad Konings).

BROWN CREEPER – Brown Creeper made a good push in *El Paso* in the second week of Oct with at least six reports 10-17 Oct (m. ob.) and a few continuing into Nov.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD – Western Bluebirds made a moderate incursion into *El Paso* beginning the third week of Oct (m. ob.), with a few flocks of as many as twenty birds. A few Eastern Bluebirds were also recorded.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH – Of the handful of Swainson's Thrushes in El Paso *El Paso* 11 Sep – 7 Oct, at least three were of the "Russet-backed" form, *C. u. ustulatus* (ph. Jim Paton, ph. Barry Zimmer).

BROWN THRASHER – A Brown Thrasher was in El Paso, *El Paso* 1-2 Nov (Jane Poss) where rare but regular; ones near Dell City 3 Oct (ph. Jim Paton) and 22 Oct – 17 Nov (ph. Jim Paton) were in *Hudspeth* which has fewer than ten total records.

CASSIN'S FINCH – Cassin's Finch made a fairly strong showing in *El Paso* with one (ph. Jim Paton) and two (ph. Barry Zimmer) in El Paso 27 Sep being a bit early, followed by a high count of eight 17 Oct (ph. Kevin Floyd, John Groves, John Kiseda) and a few remaining through the period.

RED CROSSBILL – The only Red Crossbills reported were singles late in the period in El Paso, *El Paso* 10 Nov (Jim Paton) and 15 Nov (ph. Kevin Floyd, John Groves).

PINE SISKIN – Pine Siskin staged a strong and early incursion into *El Paso* and *Hudspeth* by the second week of Sep, with numbers continuing more or less unabated through the period.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH – A lone female Lawrence's Goldfinch delighted many at Franklin Mountains State Park, *El Paso* 22-26 Oct (Liz DeMoultrie, m.ob., ph.).

OVENBIRD – An Ovenbird was in El Paso, *El Paso* 16 Oct (Michael Harvey) where rare.

TENNESSEE WARBLER – El Paso, *El Paso* had two records of Tennessee Warbler: 10 Sep (Barry Zimmer) and 20-25 Oct (ph. Liz Walsh).

HOODED WARBLER – A male Hooded Warbler visited an El Paso, *El Paso* yard 12 Sep (John Groves).

NORTHERN PARULA – A Northern Parula was in El Paso, *El Paso* 16 Oct (Jim Paton).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER – A Magnolia Warbler was in west El Paso, *El Paso* 20-25 Oct (Liz Walsh, m.ob., ph.).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER – A nicely photographed Bay-breasted Warbler at Franklin Mountains State Park 25 Oct (ph. Kevin Floyd) was a first for *El Paso*.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER – A Blackburnian Warbler was in El Paso 13 Sep (ph. Barry Zimmer); there are fewer than ten records for *El Paso*.

GRACE'S WARBLER – Three Grace's Warblers in *El Paso* was an above average showing for this rare lowland migrant: Memorial Park 3 Sep (Ad Konings), El Paso 5-8 Sep (ph. Jim Paton), and near Fabens 23 Sep (ph. Matthew Sim).

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER – Black-throated Gray Warblers were in excellent numbers in *El Paso* with numerous late reports through Oct and a few lingering into early Nov.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER – Like Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warblers were in excellent numbers and stayed late, with numerous reports into the first week of Nov. One in west El Paso, *El Paso* 15 Nov (Kevin Floyd, John Groves) was notably late.

HERMIT WARBLER – Hermit Warbler was seen in incredible, unprecedented numbers in *El Paso* with dozens of birds seen mid-Aug through Oct and up to four recorded at one site. A typical fall will see just one or two records. One at McNary Reservoir 14 Oct

(Barry Zimmer) was just the second ever for *Hudspeth*. An odd hybrid warbler at Memorial Park, *El Paso* 1 Sep (ph. Jay Wilbur, Judy Wilbur) looked to have Hermit parentage but did not look like typical Hermit x Townsend's hybrids.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – A Black-throated Green Warbler in El Paso, *El Paso* 13 Sep (ph. John Groves) was a month earlier than other fall records.

CANADA WARBLER – One of the rarest warblers in El Paso, *El Paso* this fall was the Canada Warbler at Memorial Park 8 Oct (ph. Ad Konings, m.ob.).

RED-FACED WARBLER – Two Red-faced Warblers in El Paso were the first in *El Paso* in many years but fit perfectly into the typical Aug window: 1 Aug (ph. John Kiseda) and at Memorial Park 14-16 Aug (Kerry Gardner, m.ob., ph.).

PAINTED REDSTART – At least three Painted Redstarts visited El Paso, *El Paso*: in a yard 23 Aug (ph. Barry Zimmer) with the rest at Memorial Park 4 Sep (ph. Samantha Dominguez), 9-13 Sep (Kevin Floyd, John Groves), and 27-28 Sep (ph. John Groves).

Sparrows – Dry conditions pushed very large numbers of sparrows and juncos into the yards and parks of El Paso, *El Paso*, with the greatest numbers in Sep and Oct during migration. While most were common species, a few like Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Black-chinned Sparrow are only very rarely seen away from their typical habitat of brushy mountain slopes. Even the tiniest patch of grass would attract birds, case in point being the three Grasshopper Sparrows and lone Savannah Sparrow that visited Zimmer's yard on the east slope of the Franklin Mountains.

RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW – A Rufous-crowned Sparrow at Memorial Park, *El Paso* 3 Sep (ph. Ad Konings) was only a few miles from typical habitat in the Franklin Mountains, but any record for this species away from habitat is very unusual.

CANYON TOWHEE – A few Canyon Towhees were noted in the fields around Dell City, *Hudspeth* starting in mid-Sep (Jim Paton), indicating some downslope movement, which does not happen most years.

BREWER'S SPARROW – A Brewer's Sparrow in El Paso, *El Paso* 16 Aug (Barry Zimmer) was a bit early.

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW – Among the very unusual downslope records of Black-chinned Sparrow in El Paso, *El Paso* were one on the UTEP campus 11 Sep (Kevin Floyd) and two at Memorial Park 8 Oct (ph. John Groves).

FOX SPARROW – Any Fox Sparrow is rare but typically the Fox Sparrows in the El Paso area are "Red" *P. i. iliaca/zaboria* type birds, like singles at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 25 Oct (ph. Samantha Dominguez) and near Dell City, *Hudspeth* 12 Nov (ph. Ad Konings). Much more unexpected are *P. i. schistacea* types, so these "Slate-colored" birds were a big surprise: one in an El Paso yard 7-9 Oct (ph. John Kiseda) and one in a west El Paso neighborhood 19 Oct (ph. Ad Konings) with two near there 31 Oct (ph. John O'Brien, David Sarkozi).

DARK-EYED JUNCO – Numerous Dark-eyed “Gray-headed” Juncos in Sep, with the earliest being 3 Sep at Memorial Park, *El Paso* (ph. Ad Konings) were very early. Early Oct is the normal arrival date for this form. Although there was some confusion with “Gray-headed” Junco by some observers, a number of records of Dark-eyed “Red-backed” Junco (*J. h. dorsalis*) were documented in El Paso, *El Paso* Oct-Nov. The earliest was 4 Oct (ph. Jim Paton), the high single site count was four on 5 Nov (Wyatt Egelhoff), and some birds remained through the period. There were few previous *El Paso* records of this form.

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO – At least two, and likely four, Yellow-eyed Juncos were recorded in El Paso, *El Paso*, which had only one previous record: 26-28 Sep (ph. Barry Zimmer, m.ob.), 17-26 Oct (Kevin Floyd, John Groves, John Kiseda, m.ob., ph.) with one at this site 15 Nov (ph. Ad Konings) thought by the observer to be a visually different bird, and one about 1km away 30 Oct – 3 Nov (Justin Bosler, m.ob., ph.).

HEPATIC TANAGER – Hepatic Tanager is always notable in *El Paso* as a rare lowland migrant, with one to three reported most falls. This fall saw record numbers with at least a dozen 9 Sep – 24 Oct, most in late Sep. The high count was three in Memorial Park in late Sep (ph. John Groves). The three in *Hudspeth*: one in the Indio Mountains 27 Sep (ph. Michael Harvey) and two in Dell City 3 Oct (Kim Garwood, Willie Sekula) added to the handful of previous county records.

NORTHERN CARDINAL – A male Northern Cardinal at Keystone Heritage Park 4 Oct (ph. Ad Konings) was away from Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, the only regular location for the species in *El Paso*.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in west El Paso, *El Paso* 21 Aug – 13 Sep (ph. Liz Walsh) was early and likely the same bird found about 2km away in Jul, an immature male in Dell City 11 Oct (ph. Greg Cook) was a rare *Hudspeth* record, and a female in El Paso 11 – 18 Nov (ph. John Kiseda) was late.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK – A Black-headed Grosbeak in El Paso, *El Paso* 22-29 Oct (ph. Michael Harvey) was about two weeks late.

DICKCISSEL – A Dickcissel in El Paso, *El Paso* 27-30 Oct (ph. Barry Zimmer) was late.

BRONZED COWBIRD – A Bronzed Cowbird at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 5 Nov (Wyatt Egelhoff) was about six weeks late.

El Paso area Cited observers: Justin Bosler, Greg Cook, D.D. Currie, Liz DeMoultrie, Samantha Dominguez, Wyatt Egelhoff, Eric Enders, Kevin Floyd, Kerry Gardner, Kim Garwood, John Groves, Michael Harvey, Randy Hesford, Peter Holder, John Kiseda, Ad Konings, Clayton Leopold, Dell Little, Vicki Milne, John O’Brien, Jim Paton, Jane Poss, David Sarkozi, Willie Sekula, Jeff Sexton, Matthew Sim, John Sproul, Christian Walker, Liz Walsh, Glen Wilbur, Jay Wilbur, Judy Wilbur, Barry Zimmer.

**PART 2 of 2 - Eastern Trans-Pecos (Brewster, Crane, Culberson, Jeff Davis,
Loving,
Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, Val Verde, Ward, Winkler)
Sub-regional compiler: Steven W. Cardiff**

Eastern Trans-Pecos Seasonal Summary:

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, birding activity in the region was, if anything, higher than normal, resulting in an enormous volume of observational data and an amazing variety of noteworthy occurrences. Another lackluster monsoon season exacerbated what were already serious drought conditions. With a reduced wild food crop and with surface water in short supply, more birds than normal gravitated towards oases and yards offering feeders and water sources. The most dramatic weather event of the season was an early September cold front that precipitated a rare desert “migrant fallout” and was possibly responsible for historically large numbers of some early migrants into mid-September. Mark Lockwood remarked “Passerine migration in September through the central Trans-Pecos was the most astounding I have ever seen and there is not a close second. I estimate that I saw over 1000 Wilson’s Warblers during a three week period and had 33 species of migrants in my small backyard. Truly unbelievable and I was lucky to be able to really experience it.”

Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) species in bold. Cited observers listed alphabetically at the end of the report.

Notable Species observed during the period:

ROSS’S GOOSE – Two Ross’s Geese at Van Horn, *Culberson* 16 Nov (ph. Stephen Falick) added to the very few regional occurrences outside the Balmorhea area of Reeves County.

SURF SCOTER – A Surf Scoter discovered 28 Oct at Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* remained to 12 Nov, when it had been joined by a second individual (ph. Stephen Falick, m.ob.).

LEAST GREBE – A minimum of four Least Grebes included a long-staying individual at Christmas Mountains Oasis, *Brewster* 31 Aug-17 Nov (ph. Carolyn Ohl, m.ob.), separate individuals nearby at Terlingua, *Brewster* 25 Oct-13 Nov (ph. Dale Ohl, ph. Carolyn Ohl) and at Lajitas, *Brewster* 13 Nov (ph. Stephen Falick), and one farther west on the Rio Grande at Candelaria, *Presidio* 10 Nov (ph. Donna Dittmann et al.).

EARED GREBE – Perhaps not surprising due to lack of habitat, there are few records of Eared Grebe for *Jeff Davis*, so one at Musquiz Creek southeast of Fort Davis 7 Nov (ph. Jeff Sexton et al.) was a nice find.

WESTERN GREBE – Possibly a first for Brewster County, a Western Grebe was at Fort

Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* 1-4 Nov (ph. Carolyn Ohl et al.).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI – A Groove-billed Ani was present at Fort Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* 8-27 Aug (D. D. Currie, Dell Little, audio Christian Fernandez, ph. Beth McBroom, m.ob.). There are relatively few previous regional occurrences, most of which are concentrated at Big Bend N.P. and vicinity.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD – A male Costa's Hummingbird found at Alpine, *Brewster* 5 Sep (ph. Greg Duncan, ph. Ted Zobeck) may have been the same bird subsequently rediscovered in the same area 22 Sep-13 Oct (ph. Carolyn Ohl, m.ob.).

ANNA'S X RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD – An adult male hummingbird identified as a hybrid Anna's X Rufous was documented at Limpia Crossing, Davis Mountains, *Jeff Davis* 29 Aug (Dell Little, D. D. Currie, ph. Michael Gray), and a similar-looking individual was present a few miles away at another location west of Fort Davis 21 Sep-10 Oct (ph. Lorrie Lowrie).

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD – There were only two reports of Allen's Hummingbirds, and adult male in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 1-6 Sep (ph. Lorrie Lowrie), and an immature male at Fort Stockton, *Pecos* 25 Sep (ph. Justin Bosler).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD – Exceptional numbers of Calliope Hummingbirds moved through the region's highlands, peaking during early Aug-early Sep and with conservative daily high counts up to 30 individuals at some feeding stations in the Davis Mountains; smaller numbers were detected to as late as 24 Oct. Several were more unusual being farther northeast and at lower elevations, including birds at Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* 3 Aug (ph. Anita Meagher), Fort Stockton, *Pecos* 5 Sep (ph. Ted Zobeck), and at Wink, *Winkler* 13 Sep (Steve Glover) and 20 Sep (Greg Cook).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD - No fewer than 7 Broad-billed Hummingbirds were reported. At least 6 were at scattered locations in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 1 Aug-21 Sep (ph. Cecilia Riley, ph. Steve Cardiff, Dell Little, m.ob.), including an amazing 3 at one yard 9-21 Sep (ph. Lorrie Lowrie). More unusual farther southeast was one northwest of Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 6-9 Sep (ph. Jim and Barbara Hines).

VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD - A Violet-crowned Hummingbird at Limpia Crossing, Davis Mountains, *Jeff Davis* 9-22 Aug (Barry Lyon, ph. Brooke Smith et al.) may have been the same bird reported in that area on 27 Jul 2020. A second bird at a different location west of Fort Davis 16 Aug (Lorrie Lowrie, ph. Barbara Pankratz et al.) was possibly the same bird seen at the same feeders off and on 20-28 Jul 2020 and at another nearby location 25 Aug (Beth McBroom).

WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD - A female White-eared Hummingbird in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 6-25 Aug (ph. Beth McBroom, m.ob.) was likely the same individual present since 30 Jun 2020. A presumed second female

was seen sporadically at another location a few miles away 15 Aug-12 Sep (Lorrie Lowrie et al.).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER – A scarce migrant through the region, a Black-bellied Plover at Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* 3 Nov (ph. Donna Dittmann) was also relatively late.

RUDDY TURNSTONE – A very rare Ruddy Turnstone was at Crane, *Crane* 17 Aug (ph. Rose Marie Stortz).

SANDERLING – A rare fall migrant, reports of Sanderlings included up to 4 at Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* 12-19 Sep (D. D. Currie, Dell Little, Stephen Falick), one at Red Bluff Reservoir, *Reeves/Loving* 19 Sep (ph. Greg Cook), and 5 there on the *Reeves* side 20 Sep (ph. Michael Harvey).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – Two Baird's Sandpipers at Van Horn, *Culberson* 30 Oct (Steve Glover, Greg Cook) were quite late.

WILSON'S SNIFE – An early Wilson's Snipe was at Sandia Wetlands, *Balmorhea*, *Reeves* 18-27 Aug (ph. Donna Dittmann et al.).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE – At least currently seemingly a very scarce migrant, reports of Red-necked Phalaropes included singles at Van Horn, *Culberson* 21 Aug and 4 Sep (ph. Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood), 2 at Red Bluff Reservoir, *Reeves/Loving* 19 Sep (Greg Cook), and one at El Carmen Conservation Area, *Brewster* 24 Sep (ph. Bonnie McKinney).

SABINE'S GULL - A Sabine's Gull at Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* 11-12 Oct (ph. Ryan Rodriguez, ph. Stephen Falick) was the only report of the season.

RING-BILLED GULL – An adult Ring-billed Gull at Van Horn, *Culberson* 21 Aug (ph. Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood) was very early for a presumed fall migrant.

COMMON LOON – A Common Loon at Red Bluff Reservoir, *Reeves/Loving* 19-20 Sep (ph. Greg Cook, ph. Michael Harvey) had either summered or was a very early migrant; the next-earliest report for the season was at Lajitas, *Brewster* 23 Oct (ph. Carloyn Ohl).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON – Contending for “bird of the season,” a Yellow-billed Loon found at Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* 28 Oct obligingly remaining to 5 Nov (ph. Stephen Falick, m.ob.). This represents the seventh Texas occurrence and the third from Balmorhea Lake and the Trans-Pecos.

TRICOLORED HERON – There were only a couple of reports of Tricolored Heron, one at the Pecos River overlook, *Val Verde* 8 Aug (Barry Lyon, Brooke Smith), and one relatively far west at Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* 7 Aug-2 Sep (ph. Mark Lockwood, m.ob.).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – A relatively large number of reports of

westward wandering Yellow-crowned Night Herons included one at Fort Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* 10 Aug (Todd Fitzgerald), up to 6 at Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* 13-30 Aug (ph. Mark Lockwood, m.ob.), one at Christmas Mountains Oasis, *Brewster* 19 Aug (ph. Carolyn Ohl), and one at Van Horn, *Culberson* 21 Aug-6 Sep (ph. Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood). Five of the Balmorhea Lake birds were immatures, including at least one individual still sporting downy plumes on the head, possibly suggesting that it was raised locally.

WHITE-TAILED KITE – There were but three observations of White-tailed Kites during the season: singles at Van Horn, *Culberson* 15 Aug (Susan Strasevich, Thomas St. Pierre) and 21 Sep (Stephen Falick), and 2 in *Presidio* between Marfa and Valentine 4 Aug (Noah Fields, Stephen Falick).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – About 20 Mississippi Kites were reported from the more easterly swath of counties 2 Aug-28 Sep.

COMMON BLACK HAWK – Although not so far “as the hawk flies” from breeding areas in the nearby Davis Mountains, an adult Common Black Hawk photographed at Balmorhea 21 Aug (Anita Meagher) provided the first hard evidence for the species in *Reeves*.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK – Three reports of adult Red-shouldered Hawks relatively far west in the region included an early individual at Fort Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* 20 Sep (ph. Troy Hibbits), one southwest of Fort Stockton, *Pecos* 8 Nov (ph. Sue Heath), and one southeast of Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 26 Nov (ph. Angel Zakharia) which was at the same location where one was reported in late 2017 and late 2018.

SPOTTED OWL – Providing proof of the species’ continuing persistence there, a well-documented Spotted Owl was found in the Davis Mountains, *Jeff Davis* 18 Sep (Cecilia Riley, ph. Michael Gray).

WILLIAMSON’S SAPSUCKER – There was a relatively strong irruption of Williamson’s Sapsuckers across the western portion of the region, with the earliest at Pine Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson* 6 Sep (Mark Lockwood) and in the Davis Mountains, west of Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* on the same date (Marc and Maryann Eastman). At least 7 made it as far southeast as *Brewster*, including an early male at Alpine 8-10 Sep (ph. Laura Newsom et al.), a female south to Christmas Mountains Oasis 18 Oct (ph. Leonardo Sonoqui), and a male there 23 Oct (ph. Carolyn Ohl).

LEWIS’S WOODPECKER – Two Lewis’s Woodpeckers were located at Guadalupe Mountains N.P., one at McKittrick Canyon 16 Oct (ph. Curtis Hart, Lindsay Gedacht) and the other at Frijole Ranch 5 Nov (ph. Jeff Sexton et al.); these appear to be the first *Culberson* occurrences since 2017.

DOWNY WOODPECKER – There are just a handful of Downy Woodpecker occurrences for the region, so two during fall 2020 was fairly remarkable and involved

singles at Devil's Hall Trail, Guadalupe N.P., *Culberson* 14 Sep (Nick Glover) and at Mentone, *Loving* 31 Oct (ph. Greg Cook).

CRESTED CARACARA – Three northwesterward-wandering Crested Caracaras, all along Hwy. 385, included one northeast of Fort Stockton, *Pecos* 26 Oct (B. B. Oros), and individuals south of Marathon, *Brewster* 8 Oct (John Neill) and 15 Nov (ph. Tammy Russell).

MERLIN – A Merlin at Crane, *Crane* 12 Sep (ph. Steve Glover) was rather early.

APLOMADO FALCON – At least one Aplomado Falcon was detected at Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* on three dates from 10-18 Aug (ph. Brittany Meagher, ph. Brooke Smith, Donna Dittmann et al.).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER – A Great Crested Flycatcher was an excellent find at Davis Mountains S.P., *Jeff Davis* 11 Sep (ph. Tom Huston).

TROPICAL KINGBIRD – A voice-confirmed Tropical Kingbird at Sandia Wetlands near Balmorhea 11 Sep (ph. Mark Lockwood, ph. Cecilia Riley et al.) was only about the third confirmed for *Reeves*.

EASTERN KINGBIRD – An Eastern Kingbird at Fort Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* 13 Sep (ph. Troy and Marla Hibbitts) was the only report of the season.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER – Unusually far west was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Van Horn, *Culberson* 21 Aug (ph. Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood).

TUFTED FLYCATCHER –Totally unexpected was a Tufted Flycatcher in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis 13-14 Aug (ph. Jeff Sexton et al.). There are only five previous Texas occurrences, with this representing the first for *Jeff Davis* County and from the period between early May and late October.

GREATER PEWEE – Always a great bird for the region, a Greater Pewee at Alpine, *Brewster* 20 Aug (ph. Colin Shackelford) was also one of very few occurrences of a fall migrant away from the main mountain ranges.

GRAY FLYCATCHER – A late Gray Flycatcher was documented at Davis Mountains S.P., *Jeff Davis* 8 Nov (ph. Johnny Stutzman, Emily Card); most depart the region by the end of September.

PACIFIC-SLOPE/CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER – A late Pacific-slope/Cordilleran flycatcher was also relatively far northeast, north of Wink, *Winkler* 1 Nov (Jay and Amy Packer).

BLACK-CAPPED VIREO – Very exciting was a fall migrant Black-capped Vireo at Davis Mountains S.P., *Jeff Davis* 26 Aug (ph. Daniel Horton), representing one of the

only well-documented occurrences away from breeding areas in the southeastern portion of the region.

WHITE-EYED VIREO – A singing White-eyed Vireo at Fort Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* 14-27 Aug (Justin Bosler, Stephen Falick et al.) was presumably the same individual documented there in late June.

HUTTON'S VIREO – A Hutton's Vireo at Christmas Mountains Oasis, *Brewster* 16-19 Aug (ph. Carolyn Ohl) may represent the first well-documented lowland occurrence for the region.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO - The Yellow-green Vireo back for its third summer at Fort Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* and first reported 3 May, was last documented 12 Aug (ph. Todd Fitzgerald, Barry Lyon, Brooke Smith).

PINYON JAY – A Pinyon Jay about 10 mi. southeast of Alpine, *Brewster* 5-9 Nov (ph. Emily Card, Johnny Stutzman et al.) was initially assumed to be just the first detection of an anticipated irruption into the region, but ended up being the lone report for the season. Still, it was the first documented regional occurrence since 2017 and only about the third since the larger irruptions of 2000-2001 and early 2003.

BLUE JAY – Blue Jays are seldom reported in the region, so one at Fort Stockton, *Pecos* 30 Nov (ph. Sheridan Coffey, Martin Reid) was noteworthy.

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER – Delighting many birders was a Clark's Nutcracker conveniently located in Alpine, *Brewster* 29 Nov-6 Dec (ph. Bob Shackelford, ph. Carolyn Ohl, ph. David Dolan, m.ob.), the first regional occurrence since 2017.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly widespread in low numbers, with the earliest lowland migrant found at Monahans, *Ward* 19 Sep (D. D. Currie, Dell Little).

GRAY CATBIRD – At least 10 Gray Catbirds during the season seemed exceptional. Most noteworthy were individuals relatively early at Wink, *Winkler* 13 Sep (Steve Glover) and relatively early and far west at Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson* 3 Oct (Christine Turnbull).

BROWN THRASHER – At least 7 Brown Thrashers were found just in *Jeff Davis*, including separate relatively early individuals in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis 30 Sep and one at Davis Mountains S.P. 25 Oct+.

SAGE THRASHER – Sage Thrashers at Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 3 Sep (ph. Chris Pipes) and at Marathon, *Brewster* 4 Sep (Romey Swanson) were very early, and another 6-7 scattered from *Culberson* to *Brewster* 14-16 Sep were also relatively early (m.ob.).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE – A surprisingly early Townsend's Solitaire visited Davis

Mountains S.P., *Jeff Davis* 10 Sep (ph. Steve and Sue Whitmer).

WOOD THRUSH – Remarkable was a very late Wood Thrush discovered at Marathon, *Brewster* 19 Nov (ph. Carolyn Ohl, Dale Ohl, m.ob.); the bird remained through the end of the period and appeared to be attempting to winter.

CLAY-COLORED THRUSH – Three Clay-colored Thrushes at Del Rio, *Val Verde* 27 Nov+ (ph. Eric Carpenter, ph. Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood) were not too far from where 1-2 individuals were present during Jan-Feb 2019.

EVENING GROSBEAK – An Evening Grosbeak found at Pine Spring, Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson* 17-21 Nov (ph. Mike Gfeller, Rhandy Helton, Michael Retter, ph. Matt Hale) was the first regional occurrence since 2018.

CASSIN'S FINCH – There was a mild irruption of Cassin's Finches, mainly in the Guadalupe and Davis Mountains areas, but with a few detections at lowland sites, e.g., 1-2 at Van Horn, *Culberson* 31 Oct-5 Nov (Linda Martin-Rust, Kay Zagst et al.) or farther south into *Brewster*, e.g., 1-2 at Christmas Mountains Oasis 14-25 Oct (Carolyn Ohl et al.), one south of Alpine 4 Nov (Stephen Falick), and up to 3 at Alpine 30 Nov+ (Carolyn Ohl et al.).

RED CROSSBILL – Many birders took advantage of the opportunity to view two obliging Red Crossbills at Alpine, *Brewster* 30 Nov+ (ph. Justin Bosler, m.ob.). There are surprisingly few previous occurrences for *Brewster*.

PINE SISKIN – A Pine Siskin at Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* 13 Aug (ph. Mark Lockwood) was quite early for a lowland site; larger numbers gradually became more widespread in lowland areas from late Aug through late fall.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH – A great find, especially given that there was no obvious eastward irruption into the region, was a Lawrence's Goldfinch along Hwy. 90 south of Van Horn, *Culberson* 14 Nov (ph. Betty Dunn).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR – At least 3 Chestnut-collared Longspurs at two locations in the Wink-Kermit area, *Winkler* 1 Nov (audio Jay and Amy Packer) were possibly county firsts. The species can be common in grasslands of the central and western portions of the region, but is scarcer farther northeast.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW – Exceptional numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows moved through the region with many relatively early observations and high counts. Earliest were several individuals in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 21-31 Aug (Cecilia Riley, D. D. Currie, Dell Little), followed by a major influx from 2 Sep into early Oct, with many counts into the dozens at feeding stations and oases (m.ob.).

BREWER'S SPARROW – Brewer's Sparrows were also early arriving with at least 10 reports from *Culberson*, *Reeves*, and *Jeff Davis* 20-30 Aug (m.ob.).

FOX SPARROW (SLATE-COLORED) – Along with a few reports of westward-straying “Eastern” Fox Sparrows were three eastward-straying “Slate-colored” Fox Sparrows, a western form previously confirmed just once in Texas. Two were confirmed at separate locations about two miles apart in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis*, one on 8-9 Oct (ph. Lorrie Lowrie) and the other on 18-20 Oct (ph. Maryann and Marc Eastman). The third was at Pine Springs, Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson* 4-6 Nov (Derek Muschalek, ph. Jeff Sexton et al.).

HARRIS’S SPARROW – The only Harris’s Sparrow of the season was north of Wink, *Winkler* 1-8 Nov (ph. Jay Packer, Amy Packer, Brandon Best).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – Yellow-headed Blackbirds are regular fall migrants but were unprecedentedly widespread and abundant this fall, especially during the period 1-24 Sep when there were at least eight reports involving concentrations of 100+ individuals, including up to 1500(!) at Balmorhea, *Reeves* 11 Sep (Mark Lockwood, ph. Cecilia Riley) and 360 at El Carmen Conservation Area, *Brewster* 24 Sep (ph. Bonnie McKinney).

SCOTT’S ORIOLE – A late Scott’s Oriole was observed at Pine Springs, Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson* 1-8 Nov (Eric Carpenter, ph. Derek Muschalek, ph. Tim Hoffman, m.ob.).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE – There are surprisingly few occurrences of Baltimore Oriole in the region, so five this season was remarkable. First was an adult male at Alpine, *Brewster* 10 Sep (Colin Shackelford) amazingly followed by an immature at the same yard 1-4 Oct (ph. Colin Shackelford). The others involved two in the Davis Mountains—at the Davis Mountains Preserve 17 Sep (ph. Mark Lockwood) and at Limpia Crossing 23 Sep (ph. Cecilia Riley; these possibly the first hard evidence occurrences for *Jeff Davis*), and one at Fort Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* 21 Sep (ph. Mark Lockwood).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD – A Rusty Blackbird at Marathon, *Brewster* 31 Oct (ph. Betty Dunn) was one of few ever found in the region and was possibly the first well-documented fall occurrence.

COMMON GRACKLE- At least 3 Common Grackles at Alpine, *Brewster* 30 Nov-14 Dec (ph. Dale Ohl, ph. Randy Pinkston, ph. Justin Bosler et al.) were surprising given the lack of other occurrences from the western portion of the region during the period.

OVENBIRD – An Ovenbird at Fort Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* 2 Sep (ph. Mark Lockwood) and a presumed second individual at nearby Marathon, *Brewster* 14 Sep (John Vanderpoel) were the only reports.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – Photo-documented Louisiana Waterthrushes in *Jeff Davis* at Musquiz Creek southeast of Fort Davis 15 Aug (ph. Jeff Sexton et al.; possibly the same bird previously found there 26 Jul 2020) and in the Davis Mountains west of

Fort Davis 22 Aug (Donna Dittmann, Steve Cardiff, ph. Beth McBroom) added to the few previous occurrences for the region.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - At least a dozen Northern Waterthrushes reported 23 Aug-8 Sep (m.ob.) seemed above average.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER – A well-described female Golden-winged Warbler at Smith Springs, Guadalupe Mountains N.P. 25 Sep (Chris Runk) was possibly the first fall occurrence for the region and a first for *Culberson*.

COLIMA WARBLER – Three relatively late Colima Warblers were encountered in the vicinity of Boot Spring, Chisos Mountains, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 13 Sep (Nick Glover).

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER – Unusual numbers of Virginia's Warblers were detected in the region's northeast lowlands 18 Aug-13 Sep, with seven reports from the Balmorhea area (m.ob.), including at least 8 individuals there on 11 Sep (Mark Lockwood), and one as far northeast at Crane, *Crane* 3 Sep (ph. John Pike).

AMERICAN REDSTART – An above-average 18 individuals were reported from across the region 6-19 Sep (m.ob.).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER – A well-documented Blackpoll Warbler was a nice find north of Wink, *Winkler* 1 Nov (ph. Jay Packer, Amy Packer); the species is exceptionally rare in the region, especially in fall.

PINE WARBLER – A Pine Warbler east of Guadalupe Mountains N.P. at Pine Springs Rest Area 6 Nov (ph. Wyatt Egelhoff) was possibly a first for *Culberson*, and another was documented at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 24 Nov (ph. Justin LeClaire). There are only a handful of previous occurrences from the western portion of the region.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER – A Yellow-throated Warbler found at Fort Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* 19 Nov (ph. Carolyn Ohl et al.) and last detected 15 Dec (ph. Stephen Falick) was one of the only well-documented late fall occurrences for the region.

GRACE'S WARBLER – Rarely detected at lower elevations, a migrant Grace's Warbler at Christmas Mountains Oasis, *Brewster* 31 Aug (ph. Carolyn Ohl) was noteworthy.

HERMIT WARBLER – Hermit Warblers made a good showing with about 20 individuals detected 14 Aug-12 Oct. As expected, most were at higher elevations, but more than average were also found at relatively lower elevation sites including at Marathon, *Brewster* 14 Aug (Justin Bosler), Fort Peña Colorado Park, *Brewster* 23 Aug (Eddie and Kris Farrey) and 25 Aug (Stephen Falick), Christmas Mountains Oasis, *Brewster* 23 Aug (ph. Carolyn Ohl), Alpine, *Brewster* 17 Sep (ph. Carolyn Ohl), Santa Elena Canyon, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 27 Sep (Brandon Best), and, more exceptionally

far northeast, at Fort Stockton, *Pecos* 12 Oct (ph. Erik Atwell et al.). There are also surprisingly few occurrences for Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson*, so singles there 14 Sep (Nick Glover) and 5 Oct (ph. Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood) deserve mention.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – There were two reports of Black-throated Green Warblers, one at Marathon, *Brewster* 1 Nov (ph. Carolyn Ohl, Dale Ohl), and one at Chisos Basin Loop, Big Bend N.P. 21 Nov (ph. Graeme Colmer).

RUFOUS-CAPPED WARBLER – Very exciting was a Rufous-capped Warbler at Del Rio, *Val Verde* 27 Nov+ (ph. Eric Carpenter, m.ob.). This represents one of the only regional occurrences away from Dolan Falls Preserve and Big Bend N.P.

PAINTED REDSTART – A Painted Redstart at McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains N.P., *Culberson* 15 Sep (Nick Glover) was the first there in several years. Perhaps even more unexpected, however, were lowland migrants at the Hwy. 90 pecan orchards south of Van Horn, *Culberson* 31 Aug (Christine Turnbull, Dina Perry, Beth McBroom) and at Santa Elena Canyon, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 27 Sep (Brandon Best, Advait Marathe).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – A few well-described or photo-documented Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found, including birds at Christmas Mountains Oasis, *Brewster* 21 Oct (ph. Carolyn Ohl), at Trap Spring, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 25 Oct (Gabriel Mapel), and a very late individual at Limpia Crossing, Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 30 Nov-5 Dec (ph. Dell Little, D. D. Currie).

PAINTED BUNTING - Painted Bunting was another species present in exceptional numbers this fall, with counts of 10-20+ at many feeding stations and oases 6 Aug-20 Sep (m.ob.).

Cited observers:

Erik Atwell, Brandon Best, Justin Bosler, Emily Card, Steve Cardiff, Eric Carpenter, Sheridan Coffey, Graeme Colmer, Greg Cook, D. D. Currie, Donna Dittmann, David Dolan, Greg Duncan, Betty Dunn, Marc Eastman, Maryann Eastman, Wyatt Egelhoff, Stephen Falick, Eddie Farrey, Kris Farrey, Christian Fernandez, Noah Fields, Todd Fitzgerald, Kim Garwood, Lindsay Gedacht, Nick Glover, Steve Glover, Michael Gray, Matt Hale, Curtis Hart, Michael Harvey, Sue Heath, Rhandy Helton, Troy Hibbitts, Marla Hibbitts, Jim Hines, Barbara Hines, Tim Hoffman, Daniel Horton, Tom Huston, Justin LeClaire, Dell Little, Mark Lockwood, Lorrie Lowrie, Barry Lyon, Gabriel Mapel, Advait Marathe, Beth McBroom, Bonnie McKinney, Anita Meagher, Brittany Meagher, Derek Muschalek, John Neill, Laura Newsom, Carolyn Ohl, Dale Ohl, B. B. Oros, Amy Packer, Jay Packer, Barbara Pankratz, Dina Perry, John Pike, Randy Pinkston, Chris Pipes, Martin Reid, Michael Retter, Cecilia Riley, Ryan Rodriguez, Chris Runk, Tammy Russell, Willie Sekula, Jeff Sexton, Bob Shackelford, Colin Shackelford, Leonardo Sonoqui, Brooke Smith, Thomas St. Pierre, Rose Marie Stortz, Susan Strasevicz, Johnny Stutzman, Romey Swanson, Christine Turnbull, John Vanderpoel, Steve and Sue Whitmer, Kay Zagst, Angel Zakharia, Ted Zobeck.

