

Trans-Pecos region of Texas - Winter 2020 (1 December 2020 - 28 February 2021)

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:

Conditions were mild and dry in the El Paso area. Rainfall was essentially nonexistent and the primary precipitation event was the notorious winter storm of 14-16 Feb. Although its human impacts in the El Paso area were not as severe as those felt in the rest of Texas, the up to 20cm of snow and forty some hours with below freezing temperatures certainly were difficult on drought-stressed insectivores. A broad montane irruption hinted at in early fall never materialized but there were good numbers of Western Bluebirds and Pine Siskins through the period. Away from urban areas, vegetation was stressed and bird numbers were low. Drought conditions were likely responsible for the excellent showing of Vermilion Flycatcher in El Paso. Notable rarities were Ruddy Ground Doves, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbirds, Sanderling, Magnificent Frigatebird, an injured Swainson's Hawk, Violet-green Swallow, and Rufous-backed Robin.

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

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** - The two Greater White-fronted Geese that arrived at Ascarate Park, El Paso Co 11 Nov (ph. John Kiseda, m.ob.) were joined by a third 5 Jan+; another was at the Fort Bliss ponds, El Paso Co 13 Feb (ph. John Groves, John Kiseda).

**ROSS'S GOOSE** - A rare blue morph Ross's Goose was at McNary Reservoir, Hudspeth Co 8 Jan+ (Jim Paton); after the Feb storm, the large Snow and Ross's goose flock there, over 1000 most winters, ballooned to an estimated 3500 birds (Jim Paton).

**CACKLING GOOSE** - Rare but regular in the El Paso area, a Cackling Goose was at Ascarate Park, El Paso Co 1-15 Jan (ph. Barry Zimmer).

**GREATER SCAUP** – Regular at this site in recent years, a female Greater Scaup was at Ascarate Park, El Paso Co 21 Dec- 10 Jan (ph. Barry Zimmer, m.ob.).

**RUDDY GROUND DOVE** – The two pairs of Ruddy Ground Doves in El Paso, El Paso Co from Nov remained through 9 Dec (ph. Jim Paton) and 16 Dec (ph. Barry Zimmer) respectively.

**BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** – A female Black-chinned Hummingbird in El Paso, El Paso Co 7–13 Feb (ph. Barry Zimmer) was a complete surprise since there were no previous local records between the third week of Nov and about the third week of Mar when spring arrivals appear.

**COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD** – Two different Costa's Hummingbirds were in El Paso, El Paso Co: 16–20 Feb (John Barrera, ph. John Groves) and in a different part of town 15 Feb+ (ph. Barry Zimmer).

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** – Casual to rare in El Paso Co in winter, an immature male Calliope Hummingbird was on the UTEP campus 7 Jan (ph. Kevin Floyd) and a hardy female frequented an El Paso yard 24 Jan+ (ph. Barry Zimmer), surviving the Feb storm.

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** – A female Broad-billed Hummingbird was in El Paso, El Paso Co 19–23 Jan (ph. Michael Harvey).

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** – Small numbers of Black-necked Stilts again overwintered at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso Co (John Sproul, m.ob.) and along the Rio Grande in west El Paso.

**SANDERLING** – A Sanderling at the Fort Hancock sewage ponds, Hudspeth Co 18 Jan (ph. Stephen Falick, Robert McClure) was a complete shock and the first local winter record.

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER** – Casual in winter, a Solitary Sandpiper in west El Paso, El Paso Co 1 Jan (ph. Jim Paton) was at a site with previous winter records.

**MEW GULL** – Brief but suggestive ebird descriptions accompanied Mew Gull reports from Keystone Heritage Park, El Paso Co: an adult 15 Jan (Phil Chaon) and a first-cycle bird 29 Jan (John Groves and John Kiseda).

**CALIFORNIA GULL** – The only California Gull report was an adult at Fort Hancock Reservoir, Hudspeth Co 20 Dec (ph. Alex Hopping).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** – Lesser Black-backed Gull continues to increase in the El Paso area with a first-cycle at McNary Reservoir, Hudspeth Co 17 Dec (Barry Zimmer); a first-cycle at Fort Hancock Reservoir, Hudspeth Co 17 Dec (Jim Paton); an adult at Keystone Heritage Park, El Paso Co 15 Jan (ph. Phil Chaon); and 1–2 first-cycles there 16 Jan-21 Feb (ph. John Groves, Ad Konings, Jim Paton).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** – An exhausted female Magnificent Frigatebird picked up at an El Paso mall parking lot, El Paso Co 15 Feb (*fide* John Kiseda, ph.) and taken to the El Paso Zoo for treatment was one of the most shocking records ever for the El Paso area.

**TURKEY VULTURE** – Up to at least eight Turkey Vultures again overwintered in and around Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso Co (John Sproul, m.ob.), the only regular winter location in the western Trans-Pecos.

**OSPREY** – Rare in winter, an Osprey was at Ascarate Park, El Paso Co 10 Jan (Kathy Dunning, Tony Leukering).

WHITE-TAILED KITE – 1–2 White-tailed Kites at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso Co 27 Jan+ (John Sproul, m.ob.) were the first there since 19 Nov; 1–2 were also near Fabens, El Paso Co 4 Dec–13 Jan (ph. Matthew Sim).

BALD EAGLE – Rare around El Paso, a Bald Eagle was at Fort Hancock Reservoir, Hudspeth Co 17 Dec–29 Jan (ph. Jim Paton) and another was in northeast El Paso, El Paso Co 1 Jan (ph. Yvonne Zimmer).

SWAINSON'S HAWK – A sick Swainson's Hawk picked up near Ascarate Park, El Paso Co 15 Dec (*fide* John Kiseda, ph.) was a first local winter record; it did not respond to treatment at the El Paso Zoo and later died.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER – The last Williamson's Sapsucker from the fall influx was a male in west El Paso, El Paso Co 4 Dec (ph. Michael Harvey).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER – At least six Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers reported during the period in El Paso Co were a good winter total.

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER – A Hammond's Flycatcher present all period in a west El Paso yard, El Paso Co (ph. Jim Paton) was the first individual *Empidonax* proven to be present throughout a winter in El Paso Co; a Hammond's/Dusky Flycatcher was about two miles away 1 Jan (Jim Paton).

GRAY FLYCATCHER – A Gray Flycatcher at Memorial Park, El Paso Co 26 Jan (ph. John Groves) was a local winter first.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – 1–3 Vermilion Flycatchers at seven El Paso sites were an excellent tally for El Paso Co, most likely a reflection of very dry conditions away from urban areas.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER – An Ash-throated Flycatcher in a west El Paso, El Paso Co yard 30 Dec (Jim Paton) was refound about one mile away on 1 Jan (ph., Ad Konings) where it remained through 25 Feb (m.ob.).

HUTTON'S VIREO – A Hutton's Vireo in west El Paso, El Paso Co 31 Jan (John Groves, John Kiseda) was the only report.

PLUMBEOUS VIREO – Lone Plumbeous Vireos in El Paso, El Paso Co 12 Dec (Barry Zimmer) and 13 Feb (Jim Paton) was a typical winter showing.

BLUE JAY – A Blue Jay flirted with the NM state line in extreme northwest El Paso Co 19 Jan (ph. John Groves, Patricia Russell); there are about ten county records.

COMMON RAVEN – Well-documented Common Ravens in the El Paso area are rare to casual, so two Common Ravens near McNary, Hudspeth Co 17 Dec (ph. Barry Zimmer) and two in northeast El Paso, El Paso Co 23 Dec (Barry Zimmer) were noteworthy.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW – A Violet-green Swallow at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso Co 24 Dec–9 Jan (ph., Randy Hesford) provided a first local record for those two months.

BARN SWALLOW – A Barn Swallow was at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso Co 24 Dec (ph., Randy Hesford).

Swallows – Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and Cave Swallow all winter in small numbers in the El Paso area and typical numbers of each were found in Dec and Jan, with Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso Co being the best spot (John Sproul, m.ob.). By mid-Feb returning migrants obscure true wintering birds.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH – A handful of White-breasted Nuthatches remained through the period in El Paso Co, where rare; more unusual were two Hudspeth Co records: Dell City 5 Dec (Kim Garwood, ph. Willie Sekula) and near Fort Hancock 17 Dec (ph. Jim Paton).

WINTER WREN – A Winter Wren was at McNary Reservoir 17 Dec (Barry Zimmer), the only reliable Hudspeth Co location for this species.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD – Western Bluebird was in excellent numbers in El Paso Co all period, as evidenced by the new high count of 96 on the 1 Jan El Paso CBC. Small numbers of Eastern Bluebird and Mountain Bluebird were also in the area.

**RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN** – A cooperative Rufous-backed Robin delighted many in a small city park in northeast El Paso, El Paso Co 31 Dec–19 Jan (ph. Barry Zimmer, m.ob.).

GRAY CATBIRD – A Gray Catbird on the UTEP campus in El Paso, El Paso Co 15 Dec–16 Feb (ph. Kevin Floyd) was a rare winter record.

PINE SISKIN – Pine Siskin had an excellent winter in El Paso Co with good numbers throughout the period.

DARK-EYED JUNCO – A few Dark-eyed “Red-backed” Juncos (*J. hyemalis dorsalis*) continued in El Paso, El Paso Co through at least 26 Dec (Barry Zimmer).

NORTHERN CARDINAL – A Northern Cardinal was at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso Co 19 Feb (John Sproul); this has become a regular breeding location but winter reports are rare.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – An impressive flock of an estimated 15,000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds was near McNary Reservoir, Hudspeth Co 17 Dec (Barry Zimmer).

El Paso area cited observers: John Barrera, Phil Chaon, Kathy Dunning, Stephen Falick, Kevin Floyd, Kim Garwood, John Groves, Michael Harvey, Randy Hesford, Alex Hopping, John Kiseda, Ad Konings, Tony Leukering, Robert McClure, Jim Paton, Patricia Russell, Willie Sekula, Matthew Sim, John Sproul, Barry Zimmer, Yvonne 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:**

A couple of formidable winter storms brought some desperately needed precipitation, but still way too little, and so the region remained in the “extreme” drought category with not much more relief in sight until, hopefully, the summer monsoons. The end-of-December cold front brought frigid temperatures and up to a foot of snow to much of the area and, amazingly, locally as much as two feet of snow in parts of the Big Bend. Limited amounts of precipitation but even colder temperatures impacted the region during mid-February. Perhaps not surprisingly, many of the less-hardy rarities that lingered in the region from the fall period into early winter registered “last observed” dates at or just after the first of these major storms, and most of those that persisted beyond that into January-February then disappeared after the mid-February event.

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

### **Notable Species observed during the period:**

**Snow Goose** – Although regular at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co, Snow Goose is generally unexpected elsewhere in the region in winter. So, of interest were: one at Lajitas, Brewster Co 25 Oct–26 Jan (Carolyn and Dale Ohl, ph. Stephen Falick et al.); four at Amistad Reservoir, Val Verde Co 23 Jan (ph. Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood); a flock of 20 moving east over Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co 13 Feb (Chris Pipes); one over Tuff Canyon Overlook, Big Bend NP 16 Feb (Carly Frounfelker, John Bryan); and one at B. J. Bishop Wetland, Presidio Co 17 Feb–1 Mar (ph. Ayla Erickson, ph. Jeff Bennett et al.). The February encounters may have involved early spring migrants or birds displaced by mid-February’s frigid temperatures.

**Tundra Swan** – Very exciting were five immature Tundra Swans at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co 6–7 Dec (ph. Tripp Davenport et al.). There are just a handful of prior well-documented occurrences for the region.

**Eurasian Wigeon** – An adult male Eurasian Wigeon seen off and on at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co 26 Dec–5 Jan (ph. John C. Mittermeier, ph. Erik Atwell et al.) was likely the same bird reported there in December 2019.

**Least Grebe** – A minimum of four Least Grebes reported included three individuals continuing from the fall period: at Terlingua, Brewster Co, first observed 25 Oct 2020 and remained through the winter period (ph. Stephen Falick, m. ob.); at Lajitas, Brewster Co, first observed 13 Nov and remained to 13 Dec (Bill Sain); and one at Candelaria, Presidio Co 2 Jan (ph. Dell Little, D. D. Currie) was presumably the same bird first observed 10 Nov. A new individual was at Daniel’s Ranch Road near Rio Grande Village, Big Bend NP 23 Jan (ph. Stephen Falick, Robert McClure).

**Ruddy Ground Dove** – A Ruddy Ground Dove at Davis Mountains SP 4 Dec–7 Jan (ph. Todd McGrath, ph. Carolyn Ohl, m. ob.) appears to represent the first documented occurrence for Jeff Davis Co. Remarkably, another was present at Lajitas, Brewster Co 12–13 Dec (ph. Stephen Falick, Bill Sain). Both birds were males and appeared consistent with the paler western subspecies *eluta*, which has been the case for the previous ten or so vagrants to the Trans-Pecos region.

**Common Poorwill** – A road-kill Common Poorwill at Guadalupe Mountains NP, Culberson Co 5 Feb (Stephan Lorenz) added to the relatively few regional winter occurrences.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** – Two Broad-tailed Hummingbirds persisted into early winter at the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co, with an adult male 22 Dec–3 Jan and a female at the same location 23–30 Dec (ph. Donna L. Dittmann, Steven W. Cardiff).

**Mountain Plover** – A Mountain Plover north of Balmorhea 20 Dec (ph. Bill Sain, Barbara Pankratz) was a nice find during the Balmorhea CBC and seems to be the first regional occurrence since the mid-1990's and first photo-documented occurrence for Reeves Co.

**American Woodcock** – An American Woodcock at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co 28–31 Dec (ph. Michael G. Harvey, ph. Cameron Rutt, Justin and Nate Mayer) was only about the fourth documented regional occurrence and, amazingly, the second from this location.

**Laughing Gull** – An immature Laughing Gull at Amistad Reservoir 23 Jan (Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood) was, surprisingly, only about the second winter occurrence for Val Verde Co.

**Ring-billed Gull** – A Ring-billed Gull at Terlingua, Brewster Co 11 Feb (ph. Stephen Falick) and six at Marathon, Brewster Co 15 Feb (Adrian Burke) may have involved early spring migrants or birds displaced by frigid temperatures around that time.

**Iceland Gull** – A first-cycle Thayer's-type Iceland Gull at Amistad Reservoir, Val Verde Co 23 Jan (ph. Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood) would be about the fifth regional occurrence.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – A first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co 8 Dec (ph. Wyatt Egelhoff), and an adult at Amistad Reservoir, Val Verde Co 23 Dec (ph. Tripp Davenport) and (presumably same bird) 23 Jan (ph. Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood) were the only ones reported.

Pacific Loon – A Pacific Loon found at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves 5 Dec (ph. Paul Sunby, m. ob.) was joined by a second individual by 17 Dec (ph. Michael Retter, Matt Hale) and both remained to at least 23 Jan (ph. Cecilia Riley, m. ob.). There are about 20 acceptable previous regional occurrences.

Zone-tailed Hawk – A Zone-tailed Hawk at Del Rio, Val Verde Co 2–8 Dec (Justin Bosler, ph. Stephan Lorenz) was the only report of the season for this rare wintering species.

Spotted Owl – Presumably the same individual at the same location as reported during Fall 2020, a Spotted Owl was in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis Co 19 Dec (Cecilia Riley, ph. Michael Gray).

Green Kingfisher – A Green Kingfisher at Candelaria, Presidio Co 10 Jan (ph. Stephen Falick, Robert McClure) established a new westernmost occurrence for the region. The species is fairly regular along the Rio Grande west to Big Bend NP, but there are only a couple of previous reports from Presidio Co.

Williamson's Sapsucker – After a relatively strong Fall 2020 influx, there were only scattered reports of Williamson's Sapsuckers continuing into December. A male at Davis Mountains SP, Jeff Davis Co 14 Jan (Michael Autin) was the only report from between 24 Dec and 14 Feb. A small burst of reports 14 Feb+ may have pertained to early spring migrants, including a male at Christmas Mountains Oasis, Brewster Co 27–28 Feb (ph. Carolyn Ohl).

Red-naped x Red-breasted sapsucker – Not one but two apparent Red-naped x Red-breasted sapsuckers were located in Brewster Co, one at Daniel's Ranch Road, Rio Grande Village, Big Bend NP 14 Jan, and the other at Lajitas 11 Feb (both ph. Stephen Falick). There are only about six previous Trans-Pecos occurrences for this hybrid combination.

Acorn Woodpecker – An Acorn Woodpecker was at Rooney Park, Fort Stockton 6 Dec–7 Mar (Tony and Phyllis Frank, ph. Willie Sekula, Kim Garwood). The species is always of interest away from the region's higher mountain ranges, and this represents the first photo-documented Pecos Co occurrence.

Downy Woodpecker – A Downy Woodpecker at Lajitas 26 Jan (ph. Stephen Falick) was possibly the first well-documented occurrence for Brewster Co. There are just a handful of previous occurrences for the entire region, including two during fall 2020.

Gray Flycatchers – At least 15 Gray Flycatchers located in Brewster Co 2 Dec–17 Feb (m. ob.) seemed an

exceptional number.

Dusky Flycatchers – About seven Dusky Flycatchers during the period also seemed well above average (m. ob.); perhaps most notable was one relatively far north at Musquiz Creek, Jeff Davis Co 27 Dec (ph. Chris Pipes). Interestingly, none of these wintering birds were reported after mid-January.

**Pacific-slope Flycatcher** – A well-photographed and voice-recorded Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Daniel's Ranch, Rio Grande Village, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co 8 Dec (Eric and Maggie Carpenter) represented just the second accepted occurrence for Texas, and the first for the eastern Trans-Pecos region.

Pacific-slope/Cordilleran flycatcher – A very late and, unfortunately, silent Pacific-slope/Cordilleran flycatcher was at Davis Mountains SP, Jeff Davis Co 6 Dec (ph. Pat and Ellen Oneil).

Bell's Vireo – Very exciting was a Bell's Vireo at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co 21 Dec (ph. Alec Hopping), possibly the first occurrence for the region from the period November-mid February, and certainly the first supported by hard evidence.

Gray Vireo – Gray Vireo is currently considered rare in winter in Texas but may gradually be proven to be locally regular in very low densities in southern Brewster and Presidio Cos. This season there were three reports: one at Dugout Wells 29 Dec and two at Chimneys Trail 30 Dec, both at Big Bend NP, Brewster Co (both ph. Cameron Rutt), and one at Arroyo Mexicano, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio Co 17 Jan (Amy and Jay Packer).

Blue-headed Vireo – A Blue-headed Vireo was quite far west at Alpine, Brewster Co 5 Dec (ph. Greg Cook, Steve Glover).

Warbling Vireo – As, or even more amazing than the above Bell's Vireo record was a Warbling Vireo photographed at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co 5 January (ph. Carolyn and Dale Ohl), apparently the first well-documented winter occurrence for the region.

Green Jay – A Green Jay detected at Del Rio, Val Verde Co 2–9 Dec (Justin Bosler, Wyatt Egelhoff, Stephen Falick) was at the species' far western limit along the Rio Grande.

Cliff Swallow – A presumed spring migrant Cliff Swallow at Lajitas, Brewster Co 16 Feb (ph. Stephen Falick), was record-early for the region and one of very few February occurrences.

**American Dipper** – Seven years after the last confirmed regional occurrence, an American Dipper was discovered at McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains NP, Culberson Co 7 Feb (ph. Michael G. Harvey).

Gray Catbird – Lingering/wintering Gray Catbirds were at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co 11–29 Dec (Tom Goodwin et al.), at Shafter, Presidio Co 2 Jan (ph. Dell Little, D. D. Currie), at Limpia Crossing in the Davis Mts. west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis 19 Jan (ph. Dell Little, D. D. Currie), at the Pecos R./Rio Grande confluence, Val Verde Co 2 Jan (Bill Sain), and at Del Rio, Val Verde Co 22 Jan (Timothy Burkhardt).

Brown Thrasher – At least four Brown Thrashers included birds first reported during the fall at Davis Mountains SP, Jeff Davis Co (first observed 25 Oct; m. ob.) and at Gage Gardens, Marathon, Brewster Co (first observed 20 Nov, m. ob.) that remained through the winter period; another one or two were at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co 9–21 Dec (Tom Goodwin et al.).

Wood Thrush – A Wood Thrush discovered at Marathon, Brewster Co 19 Nov continued through December and somehow survived snow and frigid temps at the end of December–beginning of January but was not observed after 4 Jan (ph. Donna L. Dittmann, ph. Stephen Falick et al.).

Clay-colored Thrush – Continuing from late fall, up to three Clay-colored Thrushes continued at Del Rio, Val Verde Co to at least 22 Jan (ph. Bryan Calk, ph. Willie Sekula, et al.).

Cassin's Finch – A few Cassin's Finches persisted in Brewster Co into early winter, with up to four continuing at Alpine 30 Nov–7 Jan (m. ob.), one at Marathon 2 Dec (Wyatt Egelhoff), and, much farther south and more unusual, at least one in the Rio Grande Village area, Big Bend NP 23–29 Dec (Patsy and Tom Inglet, voice-recorded Justin Bosler).

Red Crossbills – Up to four Red Crossbills continued (from 30 Nov) at Alpine, Brewster Co to at least 7 Jan (Bill Sain, ph. Stephen Falick, m. ob.).

Dark-eyed (Red-backed) Junco – Despite the fact that it breeds in the Guadalupe Mountains, Dark-eyed (Red-backed) Junco (*Junco hyemalis dorsalis*) tends to be very scarce elsewhere in the Trans-Pecos region. However, fall-winter 2020–2021 generated an above-average number of reports. The earliest well-documented observations were, interestingly, all the way down in southern Brewster Co, with one at Christmas Mountains Oasis 6 Oct (ph. Carolyn Ohl) and at least four in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend NP 1 Nov–10 Dec (ph. Tripp Davenport, ph. Eric Carpenter, Maggie Carpenter). At least another six individuals

were documented in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis Co 27 Nov–3 Jan (ph. Beth McBroom, ph. Charmaine Ganson, ph. T. J. Adams, ph. Donna L. Dittmann).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** – An immature Golden-crowned Sparrow was an excellent find at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co 15 Jan (ph. Dell Little, D. D. Currie); there are about eight previously accepted regional occurrences.

Baird's Sparrow – At least two Baird's Sparrows near Marathon, Brewster Co 19–27 Jan (ph. Johnny Stutzman, Emily Card) added to the few previous winter occurrences away from Presidio and Jeff Davis Cos.

Common Grackle – Unexpected were up to six Common Grackles at Balmorhea, Reeves Co 20–24 Dec (ph. Chris Pipes, ph. Steven W. Cardiff, Donna L. Dittmann).

Black-throated Gray Warbler – Up to six Black-throated Gray Warblers were present at Del Rio, Val Verde Co during late fall (m. ob.) with at least one male remaining through the winter period (m. ob.) and last reported 9 Mar (ph. Martin Reid and Sheridan Coffey).

**Rufous-capped Warbler** – The Rufous-capped Warbler found at Del Rio, Val Verde Co 27 Nov was last reported 4 Jan (ph. Todd McGrath, Erik Atwell, m. ob.).

Summer Tanager – Wintering Summer Tanagers included a female-type at Daniel's Ranch Road, Rio Grande Village, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co 8–29 Dec (ph. Eric and Maggie Carpenter, ph. James Smallwood and Sarah Preston, ph. Justin Bosler) and an adult male at Del Rio, Val Verde Co 22 Jan (Timothy Burkhardt).

Western Tanager – A wintering Western Tanager was at Del Rio, Val Verde Co 30 Nov–4 Jan (ph. Troy Hibbitts, ph. Erik Atwell et al.).

Northern Cardinal x Pyrrhuloxia – An apparent Northern Cardinal x Pyrrhuloxia hybrid at Del Rio, Val Verde Co 25 Dec (ph. Martin Reid, Sheridan Coffey) was possibly the region's first well-documented example of this cross.

Lazuli Bunting – An adult male Lazuli Bunting at Santa Elena Canyon, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co 8 Jan (ph. Stephen Falick) was a nice addition to the few previous winter occurrences for the Trans-Pecos.

East Trans-Pecos cited observers:

T. J. Adams, Erik Atwell, Michael Autin, Jeff Bennett, Justin Bosler, John Bryan, Adrian Burke, Timothy Burkhardt, Bryan Calk, Emily Card, Steven W. Cardiff, Eric Carpenter, Maggie Carpenter, Sheridan Coffey, Greg Cook, D. D. Currie, Tripp Davenport, Donna L. Dittmann, Wyatt Egelhoff, Ayla Erickson, Stephen Falick, Tony Frank, Phyllis Frank, Carly Frounfelker, Charmaine Ganson, Kim Garwood, Steve Glover, Michael Gray, Matt Hale, Michael G. Harvey, Troy Hibbitts, Alec Hopping, Patsy Inglet, Tom Inglet, Dell Little, Stephan Lorenz, Justin Mayer, Nate Mayer, Beth McBroom, Robert McClure, Todd McGrath, John C. Mittermeier, Carolyn Ohl, Dale Ohl, Pat Oneil, Ellen Oneil, Amy Packer, Jay Packer, Barbara Pankratz, Chris Pipes, Sarah Preston, Martin Reid, Michael Retter, Cecilia Riley, Cameron Rutt, Bill Sain, Willie Sekula, James Smallwood, Johnny Stutzman, Paul Sunby.