

Trans-Pecos region of Texas - Fall 2021 (1 August 2021 - 30 November 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: In stark contrast to the amazing fall of 2020, fall 2021 was the migration that wasn't. Birds, especially passerines, were in alarmingly small numbers throughout the period. Abundant local rains from late Jun through Jul prompted a rapid greening of the desert and grasslands which presumably allowed migrants to be less concentrated in urban oases, but this explanation does not seem adequate to explain the extreme dearth of migrants. Even common migrants like Wilson's Warbler were in very low numbers. Fall 2021 also saw a very poor showing for montane irruptives. Of the two most regular irruptives, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay was in very low numbers starting in early Oct and Red-breasted Nuthatch was essentially a no-show. Lewis's Woodpecker did have a good fall starting in late Oct with at least eight seen at five locations. The weather was mild with no significant cold fronts. Despite the low number of migrants, some good rarities were found including Surf Scoter, Band-tailed Pigeon, Black Swift, Rivoli's Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Purple Gallinule, Red Phalarope, Black-legged Kittiwake, Rough-legged Hawk, and Rufous-backed Robin.

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

SNOW GOOSE - The Snow Goose that summered at Ascarate Park, El Paso Co remained through the period (m. ob.).

GREATER SCAUP - A Greater Scaup at the Ft. Hancock sewage ponds, Hudspeth Co 15 Sep (Brian Gibbons, Barry Zimmer) was early and another was at Horizon City, El Paso Co 17 Nov (ph. Michael Harvey, Oscar Johnson).

LESSER SCAUP – The male Lesser Scaup that summered at Horizon City, El Paso Co continued through at least 22 Aug (Michael Harvey).

SURF SCOTER – Lone Surf Scoters were in El Paso Co: in Horizon City 17–18 Nov (ph. Michael Harvey, Oscar Johnson) and at Ascarate Park 27 Nov (ph. Blaine Carnes, Greg Cook).

COMMON MERGANSER – A female Common Merganser was early at the Ft. Bliss ponds, El Paso Co 10 Sep (ph. Bonnie de Grood, Janet Neath, Michelle Rometry), remaining through 24 Oct.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON – Two different Band-tailed Pigeons visited an El Paso yard, El Paso Co: an adult 18–25 Oct (ph. Barry Zimmer) followed by a juvenile 28 Oct (ph. Barry Zimmer). Band-tailed Pigeon is less than annual in El Paso.

BLACK SWIFT – Three Black Swifts were reported at the Ft. Bliss ponds, El Paso Co 19 Aug (ph. Jason Carlson) with nice photos of one.

Chaetura swift – A *Chaetura* swift was seen briefly in El Paso, El Paso Co 17 Oct (Jim Paton).

RIVOLI'S HUMMINGBIRD – A Rivoli's Hummingbird dropped in at San Elizario, El Paso Co 4 Oct (ph. John Groves).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD – A Black-chinned Hummingbird in El Paso, El Paso Co 8 Nov (Barry Zimmer) was several weeks late and one in the same yard 25–28 Nov (ph. Barry Zimmer) was record late locally.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD – An immature male Costa's Hummingbird appeared in an El Paso yard, El Paso Co 28 Nov (Barry Zimmer).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD – There were three Broad-billed Hummingbirds in El Paso, El Paso Co: a young male 29 Sep–18 Oct (ph. Tom Johnson, Janiece Ward); a female 1–2 Oct (ph. Tom Johnson); and another female 6 Nov (ph. Barry Zimmer).

PURPLE GALLINULE – A juvenile Purple Gallinule at a pond in west El Paso, El Paso Co 27 Sep (ph. Dan Belcher, Michael Harvey) was a county first and just the second locally for the El Paso area.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER – Solitary Sandpipers at Keystone Heritage Park, El Paso Co 31 Oct–9 Nov (ph., Ad Konings) and near Ft. Hancock, Hudspeth Co 7 Nov (ph., Stephen Falick, Robert McClure) were a bit late.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS – Two Lesser Yellowlegs at Keystone Heritage Park, El Paso Co 14 Nov+ (ph., Ad Konings, m.ob.) were late; the species is casual locally in winter.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – 510 Wilson's Phalaropes at Horizon City, El Paso Co 22 Aug (Michael Harvey) was a good total.

RED PHALAROPE – A Red Phalarope was at Horizon City, El Paso Co 22 Sep–2 Oct (ph., Michael Harvey, m. ob.).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – A juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake settled in at Ascarate Park, El Paso Co 5–25 Nov (ph., Sam Reitenour, m. ob.).

SABINE'S GULL – Rare but regular in fall, a juvenile Sabine's Gull was at Tornillo Reservoir, El Paso Co 15 Sep (ph., Brian Gibbons, Barry Zimmer) and two were at Horizon City, El Paso Co 22–24 Sep (ph., Michael Harvey, m. ob.) with one remaining to 30 Sep.

CALIFORNIA GULL – Two adult California Gulls were near Salt Flat, Hudspeth Co 8–12 Nov (ph., Jon McIntyre) and a first-cycle was at Keystone Heritage Park, El Paso Co 19 Nov+ (ph., Michael Harvey, m. ob.).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – Along with Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is the most expected of the rare herons in the El Paso area; this fall there were three records of lone birds in El Paso 13 Aug–2 Oct (Dan Belcher, John Kiseda, John Sproul).

WHITE IBIS – Frustrating was the poorly-documented White Ibis reported flying with White-faced Ibis at Tornillo Reservoir, El Paso Co 13 Nov (Blaine Carnes, Greg Cook, Steve Glover); there is only one documented county record but a White Ibis photographed flying with White-faced Ibis in El Paso, El Paso Co 27 Dec (ph., Keir Randall) certainly adds some credence to this report.

TURKEY VULTURE – A Turkey Vulture in west El Paso, El Paso Co 8 Nov (Jim Paton) was late and by the end of the period a few were lingering around Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso Co, the only regular wintering location in the western Trans-Pecos.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – Rare but regular migrants in El Paso Co, lone Broad-winged Hawks were in El Paso 27 Sep and 5 Oct (Jim Paton).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK – A Rough-legged Hawk near Dell City 20 Nov–1 Dec (ph., Jason Vassallo) was the first documented for Hudspeth Co.

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER – Odd in light of the generally poor showing by montane birds, it was a very good fall for Lewis's Woodpecker in El Paso, El Paso Co: the first was on 23 Oct (ph. John Groves); other singles were reported 31 Oct (ph., Barry Zimmer), 9 Nov (Jim Paton), and 10 Nov (John Sproul); and one to four were in west El Paso 14 Nov+ (m. ob.) with the high total on 20 Nov.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD – Tropical Kingbirds were at Ascarate Park, their only reliable El Paso Co location, through at least 28 Sep (m. ob.) and singles at two other El Paso locations 25 Aug (John Kiseda) and 26 Aug (John Groves) suggested at some range expansion. Four Tropical Kingbirds near Dell City 7 Aug (Jim Paton, Lisa Wilde) were at their only Hudspeth Co location.

RED-EYED VIREO – Two Red-eyed Vireos made it west to El Paso Co: one at Hueco Tanks State Historic Site 12 Sep (Liz Walsh) and one at Memorial Park 13 Sep (John Groves).

WOODHOUSE'S SCRUB-JAY – Only very small numbers of Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays moved into El Paso Co with the first being two on 3 Oct (Barry Zimmer).

COMMON RAVEN – A Common Raven in El Paso 24 Oct (ph. Barry Zimmer) was one of few documented records for El Paso Co.

PURPLE MARTIN – A Purple Martin was west to Dell City, Hudspeth Co 19 Aug (ph., Jim Paton, Lisa Wilde) where casual.

CAROLINA WREN – A Carolina Wren was in El Paso 7–10 Aug (John Groves, Susie Schneider); there are fewer than ten records for El Paso Co.

Migrant passerines – Migrant passerines, particularly insectivores like empids, vireos, and warblers, were in alarmingly low numbers throughout the period. It was possible to spend a day in the field in Sep and completely miss a normally common migrant like Wilson’s Warbler. Paton and Zimmer each recorded in their well-monitored yards *seasonal* totals of many species that fell short of *daily* maxima from fall 2020, and, in some cases, completely missed typically regular species like Orange-crowned Warbler or Townsend’s Warbler. Dark-eyed Junco, very common in 2020, was also nearly absent.

RUFIOUS-BACKED ROBIN – A Rufous-backed Robin was in El Paso, El Paso Co 10 Oct (ph., John Groves, Ada Ibarra).

GRAY CATBIRD – Gray Catbirds in El Paso, El Paso Co 18 Sep (John Groves), 17–20 Oct (ph., Barry Zimmer), and 14 Nov (Oscar Johnson) was a typical showing for this rare migrant.

PINE SISKIN – In stark contrast to their memorable showing in fall 2020, Pine Siskins were nearly absent from the El Paso area with only a few individual birds reported starting in late Oct (Michael Harvey, Jim Paton, Barry Zimmer).

NORTHERN PARULA – A Northern Parula in El Paso, El Paso Co 27 Nov (ph., Oscar Johnson) was rare and late.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – A Black-throated Blue Warbler was a treat in El Paso, El Paso Co 3 Oct (ph., Barry Zimmer).

HERMIT WARBLER – A Hermit Warbler in El Paso, El Paso Co 6 Nov (ph., Jim Paton) was record late.

NORTHERN CARDINAL – A male Northern Cardinal continued through the period at Keystone Wetlands Park, El Paso Co (m. ob.).

DICKCISSEL – A Dickcissel in El Paso, El Paso Co 24 Oct (Barry Zimmer) was a good week past expected departure dates.

El Paso area cited observers: Dan Belcher, Jason Carlson, Blaine Carnes, Greg Cook, Bonnie de Groot, Stephen Falick, Brian Gibbons, Steve Glover, John Groves, Michael Harvey, Ada Ibarra, Oscar Johnson, Tom Johnson, John Kiseda, Ad Konings, Robert McClure, Jon McIntyre, Janet Neath, Jim Paton, Keir Randall, Sam Reitenour, Michele Rometry, Susie Schneider, John Sproul, Jason Vassallo, Janiece Ward, Liz Walsh, Lisa Wilde, 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:

The beneficial monsoon rains of late spring and early summer continued off and on into the early fall period and, although not uniform in coverage, many areas dramatically turned green after experiencing periods of heavy precipitation and flash-flooding. Water flowed along some seasonal water courses, reservoirs and stock tanks were replenished, and, locally, some low-lying areas remained flooded for days or weeks. The good news was that the extreme drought gripping the region was knocked back at least for a few months. The bad news (for birders anyway) was that, with more plentiful resources, migrants and arriving wintering passerines were presumably just dispersed across the landscape and many fewer birds were attracted to oases and feeding stations. Or, at least that would be the “glass-half-full” explanation. As opposed to the “glass-half-empty” hypothesis that population levels of many species have simply crashed as a result of drought, fires, other extreme weather events, etc. Regardless, many local birders commented that birds in general, and migrants in particular, were downright scarce and there was certainly a very noticeable drop-off in reports of vagrants and high counts of more typical migrants. Irruptive species (e.g., Red-breasted Nuthatch, cardueline finches) were also generally scarce or absent. Still, plenty of good birding was to be had during the season and a decent assortment of noteworthy birds were found.

Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) species in bold.

Notable Species observed during the period:

SNOW GOOSE – Interesting reports of Snow Geese straying south to Brewster Co included solo immatures on the Rio Grande River at Big Bend Ranch SP 4–13 Nov (Mary Ann Henderson, ph. Audra Agnelly) and at Marathon 16–27 Nov (ph. Stephen Falick, ph. Brandon Woo et al.).

GADWALL – One of the summering Gadwalls at Musquiz Creek, Jeff Davis Co, was last reported 24 Aug (Carolyn Ohl). Seven at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co 7 Aug (ph. Carolyn Ohl, Anita Meagher) were presumably very early fall migrants as none had been reported there since early Jun. Also relatively early was one at Fort Stockton, Pecos Co 27 Aug (ph. Martin Reid, Sheridan Coffey) and three at the Pecos River-Rio Grande confluence, Val Verde Co 5 Sep (Troy Hibbitts).

EURASIAN WIGEON – An adult male Eurasian Wigeon at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co 14–16 Nov (ph. Greg Cook, Daniel Horton et al.) was assumed to be the same individual first reported in Dec 2019 and returning for its third winter.

CANVASBACK – Noteworthy so far south was a male Canvasback at Lajitas, Brewster Co 8–14 Nov (ph. Becky Marvil, Stephen Falick et al.).

REDHEAD – A female Redhead with up to six young at Fort Stockton, Pecos Co 27 Aug–12 Sep (ph. Martin Reid, Sheridan Coffey, ph. Dell Little, D. D. Currie) confirmed breeding at a location where small

numbers have been occasionally reported from late spring-early fall.

SURF SCOTER – Reports of the rare Surf Scoter included one at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co 26–28 Nov (ph. Caley Thomas, ph. Christopher Pipes et al.), and another in Loving Co about 14 mi. north-northwest of Mentone 27 Nov (ph. Greg Cook, Blaine Carnes).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – Much more unusual than Surf Scoter, with just a handful of previous regional occurrences, a White-winged Scoter was observed at Red Bluff Reservoir, Reeves Co 27 Nov (Greg Cook, Blaine Carnes).

LEAST GREBE – The only report of a Least Grebe involved an individual relatively far-removed from the immediate Rio Grande corridor- about 5 mi. south of Marathon, Brewster Co 5 Nov (Stephen Falick).

INCA DOVE – Two Inca Doves at Lawrence E. Wood Picnic Area, Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis Co 5 Sep (ph. Bryan Cotter) continued a recent trend of early fall sightings at relatively high elevations and represented the season's only report for Jeff Davis Co (where the species was formerly more expected, at least in the vicinity of Fort Davis).

MEXICAN WHIP-POOR-WILL – Two singing Mexican Whip-poor-wills in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co (Beth McBroom) were relatively late on 23 Sep.

LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD – Relatively late-lingering Lucifer Hummingbirds included: up to 10 at Christmas Mountains Oasis, Brewster Co to 19 Oct then gradually decreasing thereafter with one remaining to 28 Oct (ph. Carolyn Ohl, ph. Caley Thomas); at least 2–3 at multiple locations in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co 6–29 Oct (Dell Little, D. D. Currie, Cecilia Riley, ph. Laurie Lawler, Bill Sain), and one at the Chihuahua Desert Research Institute, Jeff Davis Co 15–16 Oct (ph. Dian Peavey, ph. Christopher Pipes).

LUCIFER X BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD – Hybrid Lucifer x Black-chinned Hummingbird reports included an adult male in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co 15 Aug (Donna Dittmann, Steve Cardiff) and an immature male at Christmas Mountains Oasis, Brewster Co 27 Aug (ph. Caley Thomas).

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD – The adult male Costa's Hummingbird first detected 7 Jul 2021 in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co, was last observed 17 Sep (Maryann and Marc Eastman, m. ob.).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD – Calliope Hummingbirds were relatively scarce compared to last fall's exceptional counts, but a couple lingered notably late for the species including singles at separate locations in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co 13–29 Oct (Lorrie Lowrie, Bill Sain, Rylee Gonzales) and 3 Nov (Cecilia Riley).

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD – The lone report of Allen's Hummingbird involved an adult male at Limpia Crossing in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co 17 Oct–21 Nov (Dell Little, D. D. Currie, ph. Cecilia Riley).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD – In recent years, small numbers of Broad-billed Hummingbirds have become almost expected, and the trend continued during fall 2021 with at least two in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co 8 Aug–30 Nov (Jon McIntyre, ph. Lorrie Lowrie, Maryann and Marc Eastman), another nearby at Limpia Crossing 1 Aug (Dell Little), and one near Alpine, Brewster Co

13–15 Aug (Colette Lassberg).

STILT SANDPIPER – Four Stilt Sandpipers at the Pecos River-Rio Grande confluence, Val Verde Co 15 Oct (Jay and Amy Packer) were late.

DUNLIN – One of the better shorebirds found during the period was a Dunlin at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co 18 Oct (ph. Mark and Teri McClelland). There are just a handful of previous fall occurrences.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER – Perhaps not too surprising given the normally very limited habitat available in Jeff Davis Co, up to five Baird's Sandpipers at a monsoon-flooded area just outside Fort Davis 11–12 Sep (ph. Troy Hibbitts, ph. Christopher Pipes) provided just the second fall occurrence (at least according to eBird) for the county.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – Five Pectoral Sandpipers, also at one of the monsoon-flooded areas near Fort Davis 11–18 Sep (ph. Troy Hibbitts, ph. Dell Little, D. D. Currie), were the first-ever for Jeff Davis Co (according to eBird). Again, not completely surprising given the usual lack of habitat, but still amazing.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE – A Red-necked Phalarope at Marathon 7 Sep (ph. Justin Bosler) was possibly just the second occurrence for Brewster Co.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – A subadult Black-legged Kittiwake at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co 16–28 Nov (ph. Daniel Horton, ph. Carolyn Ohi, ph. Colette Micallef, m. ob.) was only about the fifth regional occurrence. Primary feathers found in the vicinity on 19 Dec (ph. Stephen Falick; see iNaturalist observation <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/103351476>) presumably belonged to this bird, suggesting that the bird died (predated?) late on 28 Nov or early on 29 Nov as it was not detected by visiting birders on 29 Nov–1 Dec.

LAUGHING GULL – Another first for Jeff Davis Co was an immature Laughing Gull at a monsoon-flooded area a few miles south of Fort Davis 27–29 Aug (ph. Martin Reid, Sheridan Coffey, ph. Jeff Sexton, ph. Christopher Pipes et al.).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves Co 14–19 Nov (ph. Greg Cook, David Rymal et al.). There are relatively few regional occurrences away from the vicinity of Amistad Reservoir/Del Rio, Val Verde Co.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – Two summering Double-crested Cormorants at Musquiz Creek, Jeff Davis Co, present since May, were last observed 9 Aug (ph. Carolyn Ohi).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – An immature Mississippi Kite at Marathon, Brewster Co 18 Sep (ph. Stephen Falick) was the only report of the season.

GRAY HAWK – Three late Gray Hawks were located along Limpia Creek west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co 13 Sep (Barry Zimmer, Brian Gibbons et al.).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK – An adult Red-shouldered Hawk just southwest of Fort Stockton, Pecos Co 10–21 Oct (ph. John Karges, Bill Sain) was the only one reported during the season.

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER – It was an above-average fall for Lewis's Woodpeckers, starting off with one at Dog Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains NP, Culberson Co 14 Oct (ph. Mark Wilson), then a flyby and possible first for Reeves Co at Red Bluff Reservoir 23 Oct (ph. Colton Robbins), followed by another

Guadalupe Mountains NP bird at McKittrick Canyon 2 Nov (Derek Muschalek, Robert Thacker), and one much farther southeast at Christmas Mountains Oasis, Brewster Co 4 Nov (ph. Carolyn Ohl). The shocker, however, was a report of as many as twelve individuals in an area near Marathon, Brewster Co 29 Nov-3 Dec (ph. Bill Miller)- this remarkable and unprecedented aggregation (previous regional high count was three individuals) was apparently attracted to good local crops of pinyon pine nuts and acorns.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER - Completely unexpected was a Dusky-capped Flycatcher at Christmas Mountains Oasis, Brewster Co 20 August (ph. Carolyn Ohl). All previous well-documented regional occurrences have been from higher elevations in the Davis and Chisos Mountains.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD - Up to nine Tropical Kingbirds near Fort Stockton, Pecos Co 27 Aug-5 Sep (ph./vt. Martin Reid, Sheridan Coffey, Bill Sain, ph./audio Greg Cook) included begging juveniles being fed by parents on 27 Aug and confirmed breeding well north of the Rio Grande corridor.

EASTERN KINGBIRD - An Eastern Kingbird was a nice find at Davis Mountains SP 8 Sep (ph. Steve and Sue Whitmer) and was possibly just the second occurrence for Jeff Davis Co.

CASSIN'S VIREO - A Cassin's Vireo at Daniel's Ranch Road, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co 27 Nov (ph. Brandon Woo, Jorge Medina) was either very late or, perhaps more likely, attempting to winter.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - A rare Blue-headed Vireo at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co was also very early on 29 Sep (ph. Amy Evenstad).

PLUMBEOUS VIREO - A late Plumbeous Vireo was well-documented in the Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co 11 Oct (ph. Laurie Lawler).

CAVE SWALLOW - Twenty Cave Swallows at Del Rio, Val Verde Co 13 Nov (Sheridan Coffey, Martin Reid) was a good count for so late in the season.

GRAY CATBIRD - In contrast to the previous fall, only two Gray Catbirds were encountered, one at Davis Mountains SP, Jeff Davis Co 17 Oct (Steve and Sue Whitmer), and the other at Closed Canyon, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio Co 1 Nov (ph. Ana Novak).

BROWN THRASHER - Also in contrast to the previous fall, only one Brown Thrasher was reported—at Davis Mountains S.P., Jeff Davis Co 9 Oct (Steve and Sue Whitmer).

VARIED THRUSH - A Varied Thrush at Pine Springs, Guadalupe Mountains NP, Culberson Co 3-4 Nov (Derek Muschalek, Robert Thacker, Deb and Lee Wallace) was the first to appear in fall since a long-staying bird at Christmas Mountains Oasis, Brewster Co 20 Oct 2012-19 Mar 2013.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE - Several late Scott's Orioles included two at Fort Peña Colorado Park near Marathon, Brewster Co 5 Nov and another near there 10 Nov (ph. Stephen Falick), and one observed at Limpia Crossing, Davis Mountains west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co 14 Nov (Dell Little, D. D. Currie, Greg Cook et al.). The species typically departs the region by early October.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - A Rusty Blackbird at the Frijole Ranch area of Guadalupe Mountains NP 26-27 Nov (Blaine Carnes, Greg Cook, ph. Kenneth Bader) was possibly a first for Culberson Co and added to just a handful of previous regional occurrences.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – The only report of the season, and possibly a first for Terrell Co, a Louisiana Waterthrush was documented at the Independence Creek Preserve 22 Aug (Nick Glover, ph. Brad Burden et al.).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – A Black-and-white Warbler at Del Rio, Val Verde Co 13 Nov (Sheridan Coffey, Martin Reid) was either very late or potentially wintering.

PRAIRIE WARBLER – A well-documented Prairie Warbler at Chisos Basin, Big Bend NP, Brewster Co 26 Nov (ph. Brandon Woo) was an exceptional find. There are only a couple previous regional occurrences, which involved spring migrants also found in Big Bend NP.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER – Three very early Townsend's Warblers were encountered at the Tejas Trail, Guadalupe Mountains NP, Culberson Co 8 Aug (Michael Harvey).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – A Black-throated Green Warbler at Davis Mountains SP 28 Aug (ph. Martin Reid, Sheridan Coffey) was the only report of the season and one of very few ever found in Jeff Davis Co.

HEPATIC TANAGER – An assortment of late Hepatic Tanagers in the Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis Co, included an adult male at Crow's Nest 11 Oct (ph. Laurie Lawler), an adult male and female at another location west of Fort Davis 21 Oct with the male present to 25 Oct (ph. Lorrie Lowrie), and a female at Davis Mountains SP 30 Oct. (ph. Mel C., Brad Lirette).

LAZULI BUNTING – A late migrant adult male Lazuli Bunting was well-described from near Alpine, Brewster Co 19 Oct (Stephen Falick).

VARIED BUNTING – A late-lingering adult male Varied Bunting was at Christmas Mountains Oasis, Brewster Co 13–19 Oct (ph. Carolyn Ohl, ph. Caley Thomas, ph. Cecilia Riley).