

Central Texas Fall 2007

It was an uneventful fall with a few exceptions in the central part of the state. There were some decent rains but the drought has taken its toll on the resident species. Lowered lake levels did attract good numbers and diversity of shorebirds. August was a kind month for Midland with good rains thanks to the Eastern Pacific hurricane season. Fall migration was lackluster with some notable records.

Notable Observations:

Surf Scoter

A Surf Scoter on Braunig Lake, San Antonio on 24 Oct was a good find (Malcolm Mark Swan). One was seen at Hornsby Bend *Travis* on 19 Oct (Eric Carpenter).

Horned Grebe

A first-of-season Horned Grebe at Stillhouse Hollow Lake *Bell* on 3 Nov was quite early (Randy Pinkston).

American Bittern

One was seen at the Uvalde fish hatchery on 20 Oct. Possibly the same bird was seen on 17 Nov (Mitch Heindel).

Reddish Egret

One was seen and photographed along the Nueces River *Uvalde* on 13 Aug (Mitch Heindel). A juvenile bird at Stillhouse Hollow Lake *Bell* was discovered by Eric Stager 28 Oct. It remained through the rest of the reporting period. One was at Canyon Lake *Comal* on 14 Aug (David Pueppke) while one was on Kizer Golf course in s.e. Austin 29 Sep (Scott Young). Another or the same bird was below Longhorn Dam 2-20 Oct (Homer Rushing, m.ob.).

White Ibis

A juvenile bird was seen at the Uvalde fish hatchery on 30 Aug (Mitch Heindel). It was seen into mid-Sep.

White-faced Ibis

A flock of 80 White-faced Ibis in Midland on 9 Sep was a good sized flock for the area (Midnats).

Roseate Spoonbill

Up to six immature Roseate Spoonbills visited Temple *Bell* 5-9 Aug (Randy Pinkston).

Wood Stork

A nice count of 140 Wood Storks was made near Cedar Bluff Lake *Lee* on 12 Aug (Brush Freeman).

Swallow-tailed Kite

One was present near McDade *Bastrop* 26-31 Aug (*fide* Eric Carpenter) and another two near Utley *Bastrop* 26 Aug (Brush Freeman & Sheila Hargis). One was also seen in the same area on 16 Sep.

White-tailed Kite

A adult White-tailed Kite in Temple *Bell* on 6 Sep was noteworthy (Randy Pinkston). One seen at a private ranch near Soda Lake *Midland* by Don & Joann Merritt and Sybil Eberhart on 26 Sep provided a first county record.

Mississippi Kite

Nestlings were seen with the parents at Round Rock *Williamson* 1-7 Aug (Tim Fennell).

Bald Eagle

An adult Bald Eagle was flying low over Hwy. 55 about 5 miles south of Rocksprings *Edwards* on 27 Nov. It appeared to looking for something to eat, perhaps some roadkill (Troy Hibbitts).

Common Black-Hawk

A well-described Common Black-Hawk was seen along the Nueces River, *Uvalde* on 13 Aug (Mitch Heindel & Mike Overton).

Harris's Hawk

Interesting was a well-studied Harris's Hawk near Wimberley, *Hays* on 19 Nov (Herb Smith). One was seen south of Smithville *Bastrop* 26 Aug (Noreen Baker) and another in south Austin 27 Nov (Cliff Shackelford). It makes me wonder if these birds weren't on the move due to the drought.

Red-shouldered Hawk

In Midland Red-shouldered Hawks have been reported in numbers this fall that were astonishing. Seven sightings of single birds and two sightings with multiple bird were noted. All sightings were at or near a permanent water sources (Bill Lupardus).

Swainson's Hawk

A late Swainson's Hawk was reported from Midkiff *Midland* on 13 Nov by Rose Marie Stortz. At Natural Bridge Caverns *Comal* 5000+ were seen on 13 Oct (Georgina Schwartz).

Zone-tailed Hawk

Two Zone-tailed Hawks north of Wimberley *Hays* 30+ Oct is noteworthy (Herb Smith). Single birds were present near Utley *Bastrop* 7-12 Nov (Brush Freeman) and near Spring Branch *Comal* 11 Nov (Leslie Linehan).

Ferruginous Hawk

A very early Ferruginous Hawk was reported by Rose Marie Stortz in the Gun Club Lake area of *Midland* on 22 Aug.

Prairie Falcon

A Prairie Falcon in *Williamson* on 23 Sep was very early (Tim Fennell).

Sandhill Crane

Approximately 2000 birds were seen in *Midland* on 13 Nov (Rose Marie Stortz).

Whooping Crane

One was nicely described near Cedar Park *Williamson* on 4 Nov (Dennis Chical)

Black-bellied Plover

Exceptional were 12+ Black-bellied Plovers at Stillhouse Hollow Lake *Bell* 23-24 Oct. A single bird at the same location on 26 Nov was very late (Randy Pinkston). Three birds on Lake Buchanan *Llano* 1 Oct were rare for the Edwards Plateau (Tim Fennell).

American Golden-Plover

Nine along the Lake Buchanan shore in *Llano* on 1 Oct (Tim Fennell) were noteworthy. A late individual was near Thrall *Williamson* on 12 Nov (Tim Fennell & Byron Stone).

Semipalmated Plover

A tardy individual was seen in *Midland* on 7 Nov.

Mountain Plover

A Mountain Plover seen at Willis Creek Park, Granger Lake *Williamson* on 3 Sep was amazingly early (ph., Tim Fennell).

Upland Sandpiper

An exceptionally late Upland Sandpiper was seen in s.e. *Bell* on 5 Nov (Randy Pinkston).

Dunlin

Two Dunlin at Shipp Lake on 8 Nov may only be the second record for *Bastrop* (Brush Freeman). One lingered at Stillhouse Hollow Lake *Bell* through 26 Nov (Randy Pinkston).

Wilson's Snipe

One seen in Temple 16-19 Aug is considered exceptionally early (Randy Pinkston).

American Woodcock

An American Woodcock was present in Adrienne Watt's yard in Locker, *San Saba* on 22 Nov.

Red Phalarope

A Red Phalarope made a prolonged stay at Stillhouse Hollow Lake *Bell* 23 Oct to 14 Nov much to the delight of numerous birders. Many thanks to Randy & Paul Pinkston for finding this great for Texas shorebird.

jaeger, sp.

A jaeger, sp. (probably Parasitic or Long-tailed) was reported by Heindel flying over his yard near Utopia *Uvalde* on 12 Sep.

Black-billed Cuckoo

A good find for fall was a Black-billed Cuckoo seen in Utopia *Uvalde* on 11 Sep (Mitch Heindel).

Burrowing Owl

An early Burrowing Owl was seen on 15 Oct in *Williamson* (Tim Fennell).

Long-eared Owl

A road killed Long-eared Owl was picked up just n.e. of downtown Austin on 1 Nov (*fide* Eric Carpenter)!!

Common Poorwill

A Common Poorwill at Union Grove WMA *Bell* on 1 Nov was a rare find (Randy Pinkston).

Chuck-will's-widow

A Chuck-will's-widow was reported from Harris Tank *Midland* on 28 Sep by Rose Marie Stortz and Forrest Rowland.

Vaux's Swift

Seen well as flyovers were 20-25 Vaux's Swifts near Utley *Bastrop* on 30 Oct. (Brush Freeman).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird

Two were present at Ernest Jasek's feeders in n.w. *Guadalupe* on 1 Oct. A rather late individual was seen near Utley *Bastrop* on 11 Nov. (Brush Freeman). It was eclipsed by a more tardy immature male near Poth *Wilson* on 17 Nov (Willie Sekula).

Ringed Kingfisher

Ringed Kingfishers seemed to be on the move this fall. One was seen at Braunig Lake, San Antonio on 19 Nov (Helen Rezbek & Georgina Schwartz). More exciting for the location (Concho Valley) was one in San Angelo seen and heard along the Concho River on 22 Nov (Terry Maxwell). It was preceded by one being photographed at San Angelo State Park *Tom Green* on 7 Oct (Jay Packer).

Williamson's Sapsucker

A stunning male Williamson's Sapsucker was seen at Harris Tank *Midland* on 4 Nov on a Mid-Nat field trip.

Red-naped Sapsucker

A well-marked male Red-naped Sapsucker in Temple 4 Nov provided a new county record (Randy Pinkston).

Hammond's Flycatcher

Rare for the Austin area was a Hammond's Flycatcher near Utley *Bastrop* on 26 Aug (Brush Freeman).

Dusky Flycatcher

A Dusky Flycatcher was reported from Harris Tank *Midland* on 11 Sep (Forrest Rowland and Rose Marie Stortz).

Great Kiskadee

Brush Freeman saw a Great Kiskadee near Webberville Park *Travis* on 7 Nov.

Cassin's Vireo

A Cassin's Vireo was seen at Midkiff *Midland* on 11 Sep (Forrest Rowland and Rose Marie Stortz).

Tufted Titmouse

Treading on thin ice were an apparent pure Tufted Titmouse and a pure Black-crested Titmouse seen in a mixed species flock at Willis Creek Park, Granger Lake *Williamson* on 26 Nov (Tim Fennell).

Western Bluebird

Joe Grzybowski tallied 50+ Western Bluebirds on a ranch near Blackwell *Coke* on 28 Oct.

Mountain Bluebird

Up to 8 Mountain Bluebirds were seen in *Mason* 22 & 23 Nov (Dixie Feuerbacher & Bobbye Frazier).

Wood Thrush

A late Wood Thrush was present in San Antonio on 1 Nov (Brad Wier).

Winter Wren

A western Winter Wren was reported by Mitch Heindel from Utopia *Uvalde* 1-15+ Nov.

Blue-winged Warbler

A Blue-winged Warbler was seen at Spring Branch *Blanco* on 16 Sep (Leslie Linehan). Two were seen in Austin on 20 Sep (Andy & Julia Balinsky).

Golden-winged Warbler

Two Golden-winged Warblers near downtown Austin 25-26 Sep (Mike Rogan & Ken Anderson) were a great for fall find.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

A male Black-throated Blue Warbler at San Angelo State Park *Tom Green* on 7 Oct (ph., Jay Packer) was a stunning find for the Concho Valley. Another male was seen at McKinney Falls State Park *Travis* on 23 Oct (Sam Fason).

Black-throated Gray Warbler

One was seen along Avenue A in San Antonio on 4 Oct (Danny Large). One in was seen in Pleasanton *Atascosa* on 27 Nov (Mike Paul).

Black-throated Green Warbler

Up to six birds were tallied in the La Grange/Fayetteville Reservoir *Fayette* area on 8 Nov (Brush Freeman).

Louisiana Waterthrush

A late bird was reported in south Austin on 20 Oct (Kenny Anderson).

Rufous-capped Warbler

Continuing from the summer the apparent pair of Rufous-capped Warblers were seen together at Concan *Uvalde* 6 Oct. One bird was seen 25 Nov (Mitch Heindel).

Scarlet Tanager

One was reported from Warbler Woods near Cibolo *Guadalupe* on 13 Aug (Susan Schaezler).

Clay-colored Sparrow

Rather early were two Clay-colored Sparrows seen at Webberville Park *Travis* 1 Sep (Brush Freeman).

Henslow's Sparrow

A great find was a Henslow's Sparrow at Willis Creek Park, Granger Lake *Williamson* on 26 Nov (ph.; Tim Fennell & Byron Stone).

Le Conte's Sparrow

Thirty-five+ Le Conte's Sparrows seen at Sore Finger WMA and Willis Creek Park, Granger Lake on 26 Nov were the highest single day count for *Williamson* for Tim Fennell.

Black-headed Grosbeak

One in Spring Branch *Blanco* 31 Aug-2 Sep (Leslie Linehan) was of note as was one along the Colorado River west of La Grange *Fayette* on 8 Nov (Brush Freeman).

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Mitch Heindel reports a calling bird flying overhead on 24 Sep near Utopia *Uvalde*.

Lesser Goldfinch

One seen near Bastrop on 25 Oct by Brush Freeman represents a rare area record.

Cited Observers

Ken Anderson
Noreen Baker
Andy & Julia Balinsky
Dennis Chical
Sybil Eberhart
Sam Fason
Tim Fennell
Bobbie Frazier
Dixie Feuerbacher
Brush Freeman
Joe Gryzbowski
Sheila Hargis
Mitch Heindel
Troy Hibbitts
Jay Packer
Ernest Jasek
Danny Large
Leslie Linehan
Bill Lupardus
Don & Joann Merritt
Mike Overton
Mike Paul
David Pueppke
Helen Rezbek
Mike Rogan
Forrest Rowland
Homer Rushing
Susan Schazler
Cliff Shackelford
Georgina Schwartz
Herb Smith
Byron Stone
Rose Marie Stortz
Malcolm Mark Swan
Adrienne Watt
Brad Wier
Scott Young

