

Central Texas Summer 2006

The weather basically sucked more so than usual in Central Texas. It was ridiculously hot and dry. The impact on the birds was every evident. Dixie Feuerbacher said that Bobwhites were practically non-existent and numbers of Blue Grosbeaks were down. Things weren't much better in Midland. Only 1.60" of rain was seen and that was on June 1st! The southern llano was stressed due to the drought.

This report is very short due to hardly anyone turning in any reports. I guess it was too hot and dry for birders to be out in the field this year. I suspect the drought discouraged field work.

Notable Observations:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Mason City Park, Mason on 28 June were notable (Bobbye Frazier). A single bird was seen in the marsh below Granger Lake Dam *Williamson* on 18 Jun (Tim Fennell).

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Up to five birds were at Mitchell Lake in June (Andy Garcia et al).

Blue-winged Teal

A common breeding species in Midland in "normal" times. Not this year. None were found to be nesting this summer. Eight were reported from Rose Acres on 3 July (Bill Lupardus).

Cinnamon Teal

Cinnamon Teal is considered a fairly common breeder in *Midland*. Not this year...good numbers diminished as area surface water evaporated.

Anhinga

A male Anhinga was seen at Fort Inge, *Uvalde* on 8 July (Mitch Heindel).

Great-blue Heron

Great Blue-Herons vacated Midland due to drought conditions. Normally a common species in Midland **none** were noted this season.

Green Heron

As in the past several summers this species continues to be difficult to find in Midland owing to drought conditions.

Wood Stork

Derek Muschalek tallied 250 Wood Storks overhead in *Dewitt* on 18 June.

Mississippi Kite

A pair of Mississippi Kites successfully nested in Round Rock *Williamson* this season (Tim Fennell). This species also nested in the Utley *Bastrop* area this summer with 2-3 pairs being noted (Brush Freeman).

Swainson's Hawk

After searching for five years Fennell finally found a nest site of a pair of Swainson's Hawks at Willis Creek WMA *Williamson* this summer. Photographs were obtained of the nest and nestling. A pair also nested in n.e. San Antonio on Loop 410 (Bill Holliday).

Zone-tailed Hawk

One was seen in Mason City Park, Mason on 27 July (Bobbye Frazier).

Peregrine Falcon

A Peregrine Falcon in e. *Bexar* on 17 June was notable (Roel Loera).

Sora

A Sora seen at a n.e. San Antonio golf course on 7 June was interesting for the date (Ben Plummer).

Pectoral Sandpiper

A somewhat early Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at Midland's Rose Acres on 2 July (Alvin & Donna Kelly).

Franklin's Gull

Seventeen Franklin's Gulls on Granger Lake on 18 June were noteworthy (Tim Fennell).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

A male and female were still present in early June near Utopia, *Uvalde* (Mitch Heindel). A juvenile was reported from the same yard 10-22 June.

Belted Kingfisher

A Belted Kingfisher was seen by the Midnats on a field trip to Midkiff, *Midland* on 29 July.

Least Flycatcher

A Least Flycatcher was captured in a mist net on Fort Hood *Coryell* on 7 July (David Cimprich)

Cordilleran Flycatcher

A Cordilleran Flycatcher was identified by group effort during a Midnats field trip to Midkiff, *Midland* on 29 July.

Couch's Kingbird

A Couch's Kingbird in a s. *Travis* yard on 13 July was noteworthy (Cliff Schackelford)

Black-capped Vireo

Up to six Black-capped Vireos were seen in *Mason* on 19 Jun (Dixie Feuerbacher and Mark McClelland). They appeared to comprise two family groups

House Wren

Interesting for the season and location was a House Wren in Midland on 5 July (Rose Marie Stortz).

Northern Parula

A colony of at least a dozen territorial Northern Parulas were found below Medina Dam, *Medina* in early June (Mitch Heindel).

Palm Warbler

A female Palm Warbler was reported by Don and Joann Merritt in their Midland yard on 12 June.

American Redstart

A late American Redstart was seen by Don & Joann Merritt in their backyard on 17 June.

Ovenbird

An Ovenbird along the Medina River in s. *Bexar* on 14 June (Dodge Engleman) was definitely late!

Wilson's Warbler

One was seen in Midland on 2 June (Don & Joann Merritt).

Rufous-capped Warbler

At least one of the spring Rufous-capped Warblers lingered at Concan *Uvalde* through the season (Mitch Heindel).

Hepatic Tanager

Bob Doe reports a Hepatic Tanager near Spring Branch *Comal* on 26 July.

Cassin's Sparrow

Appeared to have nested in the grasslands around Granger Lake *Williamson* this season (Tim Fennell).

Cited Observers

David Cimprich

Bob Doe
Tim Fennell
Bobbie Frazier
Dixie Feuerbacher
Brush Freeman
Andy Garcia
Mitch Heindel
Bill Holliday
Alvin & Donna Kelly
Roel Loera
Bill Lupardus
Mark McClelland
Don & Joann Merritt
Derek Muschalek
Ben Plummer
Cliff Schackelford
Rose Marie Stortz