

North American Birds – Summer 2007 Report

North Central Texas Region

August 31, 2007

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Weather:

Record-setting rainfall was persistent throughout the region during the month of June with widespread flooding causing many birding locations to be inaccessible. Flooding lingered in some areas for the duration of the reporting period. Temperatures remained unusually low for the season with some areas remaining below 100° F for the entire reporting period.

General Observations:

Although the extreme rains in June were desperately needed, birding and bird life were significantly impacted by the excessive rain and flooding. Many reports of washed out nests and nesting areas were received. Shorebird numbers were low due to lack of habitat. On a positive side, Grasshopper Sparrows, almost absent the last two years, made a good showing this season.

Sightings:

A group of 10 **Wild Turkey** including 3 juveniles was observed at the Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area 28 July (KL). Wild Turkey were introduced in this area and appear to be thriving.

Anhingas made a good showing during this reporting period. An early sighting was reported at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 4 June (JSi). Three were noted at the Heard National Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary, *Collin* 3 July and 29 July (GG), with one male observed sitting on a nest. Thirteen were observed at the Southwest Medical Center Rookery, *Dallas* 7 July (GC). Eight were seen at Lake Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 23 July (RK, DoH, BL).

Uncommonly rare for this reporting period, a single report of 2 **White-faced Ibises** was noted for Lake Tawakoni in *Rains* 5 June (RK).

Over 60 **Wood Storks** were reported in *Navarro* at Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area 29 July (GM, BB). Wood Storks, normally reliable and abundant at this location during the summer have been noticeably scarce to absent the last 2 years.

An unexpected juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** was seen 24 July in *Collin* (DH).

A possible first county record **Short-billed Dowitcher** was found 21 July (GC, BB) at Millers Creek Reservoir, *Baylor*. Six were reported at Lake Tawakoni, *Rains* 28 July (RK, RB).

Rare for the region, a **Common Moorhen** was reported at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 4 June (JSi).

Expanding their inland breeding range, 2 **Least Terns** were found at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 4 July (JSi); a single at Lake Tawakoni, *Rains* 5 July and 15 July (RK); 2 more were noted in *Clay* 16 July (SL); and a high count of over 25 were seen at Dundee State Fish Hatchery, *Archer* 21 July (GC, BB).

A single **Caspian Tern** was seen at Lake Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 15 July (RB) and two more were there on 17 July (RK).

Three **Burrowing Owls** were seen 4 June (SL, BrB) in *Clay* and one was observed 21 July (GC, BB) near Dundee State Fish Hatchery in *Archer* at a known breeding area.

In an area not known for nesting **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, three were seen in *Van Zandt* 3 June (RK).

A very early migrating **Least Flycatcher** was a good find 15 July (RB) at Lake Tawakoni State Park, *Hunt*.

Uncommon for the region, a possible nesting **Yellow-throated Vireo** was noted 10 June and 24 June (PA) at Bob Woodruff Park, *Collin*.

Rare for the region, 9 **Chihuahuan Ravens** were found 5 June (LB, JF *fide* DeH) on a breeding bird survey route south of Vernon in *Wilbarger*.

A very late **Horned Lark** was a great find 9 June in *Denton* (GG).

Continuing to expand their range east, 1 **Cave Swallow** was found 5 June (LB, JF *fide* DeH) on a breeding bird survey route south of Vernon in *Wilbarger*. Twelve more were found nesting 22 July (RK, RB) at Lake Tawakoni, *Rains*.

Unusual for summer, 2 **Curve-billed Thrashers** were noted 5 June (LB, JF *fide* DeH) on a breeding bird survey route south of Vernon in *Wilbarger*. Over 15 were seen in *Throckmorton* 21 July (GC, BB).

Unusual for the more western portion of the region, 2 **Wood Thrushes** were observed at River Legacy Part, *Tarrant* 20 June (JSi).

A great find was an **American Redstart** on 7 July (VW) at Lake Tawakoni State Park, *Hunt*. It is unclear whether this was a very late spring migrant or extremely early fall migrant. The bird was seen again 22 July (DoH, BL) at the same location.

A very late or possible nesting male **Baltimore Oriole** was seen at Willow Springs Golf Course, *Tarrant* 18 July (JS).

After being extremely scarce for several years, a high count of 44 **Grasshopper Sparrows** was noted in *Van Zandt* 18 July (RK).

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