

**.North American Birds  
Summer 2021  
South Texas**

Summer usually comes fast after spring in South Texas. This usually means hot weather settles in quickly and the endless days of heat keep most birders inside during The Big South Texas Bake. This year was different! RAIN! Lots of it at times! It kept temperatures below normal for a good part of the Summer Season.

**Notable Observations:**

Wood Duck – A Wood Duck reported from Aransas NWR, Aransas Co 18 Jul (Bob Showler) that might have been a post-breeding wanderer.

Cinnamon Teal – A male Cinnamon Teal observed at Tiocano Lake Cameron Co 8 Jun (Evan Farese) was noteworthy.

Red-breasted Merganser – A male Red-breasted Merganser found on Rubbersnake Island, Kleberg Co 22 Jul (ph. Justin LeClaire) was likely a summering bird.

Mexican Violetear – A Mexican Violetear visited Oleander Acres RV Resort, Hidalgo Co 18 Jul (fide Mary Gustafson; ph. Kristy Baker et al).

Green-breasted Mango – An immature Green-breasted Mango graced a yard in Calallen, Nueces Co 6-17 Jul (ph. Clay Taylor; m.obs.). It was a great addition to the summer season and provided much needed excitement for 135+ birders.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird present in a Tuleta, Bee Co yard 2-3 Jun (ph. Linda Vegh) was likely a spring lingerer. A male was reported from Corpus Christi, Nueces Co 7 Jun (Jason Page) and another male was seen at the Green-breasted Mango yard in Calallen 7-11 Jul. One bird was reported from Welder Wildlife, San Patricio 28 Jun (Angie Arredondo).

King Rail – A King Rail was detected at Laguna Atascosa NWR, Cameron Co 5 Jun (ph. Norma Friedrich, Gail Griffin). Another bird was detected at Tiocano Lake 29 Jun (John Yochum) and at Welder Wildlife, San Patricio 4 Jun (Michael McCloy).

Purple Gallinule – A Purple Gallinule present near Sandia, Jim Wells Co 29 Jun – 11 Jul (Richard Brittain et al) was taking advantage of the wet conditions.

American Avocet – A group of 40 American Avocets observed feeding in a receding marine fisheries research pond in Calhoun Co 16 Jun (ph. Damon Williford) was noteworthy for the date.

American Golden-Plover – A late American Golden-Plover was reported from Laguna Atascosa NWR, Cameron Co 5 Jun (ph. Norma Friedrich; Gail Griffin, Tamie Bulow) while one seen

flying along the beach at Padre Island National Seashore, Kleberg Co 10 Jul (Sheridan Coffey, Martin Reid) was likely a non-breeding bird.

Wilson's Plover – A count of 164 Wilson's Plover made at Charlie's Pasture, Nueces Co 18 Jul (Justin LeClaire) was encouraging along with 87 birds tallied in Oso Bay 28 Jul (Mel Cooksey).

Hudsonian Godwit – Latish single Hudsonian Godwits were seen in Cameron Co at Laguna Atascosa NWR 4 Jun (ph. Dan Jones) and along FM 106 5 Jun (ph. Tamie Bulow).

Red Knot – A breeding plumaged Red Knot spotted on the beach at Padre Island National Seashore, Kleberg Co 5 Jun (ph. Willie Sekula) was a late migrant while 79 birds tallied along the beach in Kenedy Co 10 Jul (ph. Greg Cook; Steve Glover) were mostly in basic plumage, thus indicating non-breeders wandering around.

Baird's Sandpiper – A Baird's Sandpiper observed at a rain pool in Live Oak Co 13 Jun (Sheridan Coffey, Willie Sekula, Martin Reid) that was very likely a non-breeding bird.

Wilson's Phalarope – Three Wilson's Phalaropes seen at Bahia Grande, Cameron Co 27 Jun (Javi Gonzalez) were likely fall migrants.

Pomarine Jaeger – A dark-morph immature Pomarine Jaeger was seen on an offshore fishing trip in Calhoun Co 1 Jul (ph. Petra Hockey).

Parasitic Jaeger – An adult Parasitic Jaeger was reported offshore from Port Aransas, Nueces Co 5 Jun (Jon McIntyre).

Sabine's Gull – Exciting was a non-breeding plumaged Sabine's Gull found in offshore waters of Nueces Co 29 Jun (ph. Andrew Orgill, Rylee Gonzales). It may well be a first for summer in the state.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls seen on a beach near Cedar Bayou, Aransas Co 21 Jun (ph. Andrew Orgill) along with another bird reported from Matagorda Co 30 Jun (Susan Heath) and one seen at Sargent Beach, Matagorda Co 1 Jul (Jeremy Webster) added to the growing list of summer sightings for the state.

Elegant Tern – An Elegant Tern visited Magnolia Beach, Calhoun Co 10 Jul (ph. John Maresh).

Bridled Tern – A Bridled Tern was reported offshore from Port Aransas, Nueces Co 19 Jun & 1 Jul (Jon McIntyre). A Bridled Tern was found at the T-Heads/Marina in Corpus Christi 11 Jul and brought to the Animal Rehabilitation Keep (ARK) but unfortunately the bird died (fide Andrew Orgill; specimen to TAMU).

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel – Single Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were spotted in Nueces Co offshore waters 10 & 27 Jun and 15 Jul (ph. Jon McIntyre). Six birds were in these waters 26 Jul (ph. Jon McIntyre). Two Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were seen feeding along Sargassum lines at Big Southern Bank, Kenedy Co 3 Jul (Dale Gawlik).

Cory's Shearwater – A Cory's Shearwater was encountered in Calhoun Co offshore waters 30 Jun (ph. Michael Orgill).

Wood Stork – A group of 120 Wood Stork seen near Hebbronville, Jim Hogg Co 24 Jun (Jenna Hatfield) was impressive for a location away from the coastal plains.

Masked Booby – An immature Masked Booby was spotted offshore from Port Aransas, Nueces Co 10 Jun (ph. Jon McIntyre).

Brown Booby – Four Brown Boobys were reported from oilrigs near shore from North Padre Island, Kleberg Co 18 Jul (Dale Gawlik).

Osprey – An Osprey seen in Goliad Co 19 Jun (Theresa Wiens) was away from the species usually oversummering haunts.

Swallow-tailed Kite – Swallow-tailed Kites nested again at Ganado, Jackson Co. Up to seven birds were present.

Mississippi Kite – A Mississippi Kite seen near Brownsville, Cameron Co 8 Jun (ph. Mary Beth Stowe; Hud Baker) may have been a very late migrant.

Cooper's Hawk – An adult Cooper's Hawk was found with three nestlings at Sabal Palm Sanctuary, Cameron Co 19 Jun (Ari Rice).

Broad-winged Hawk – A Broad-winged Hawk seen at Santa Ana NWR, Hidalgo Co 7 Jun (Tim Brush, John Brush) was likely a late migrant.

Pileated Woodpecker – A Pileated Woodpecker present 2-5 Jun (ph. Tom Langschieff et al) on the King Ranch, Kleberg Co was well away from the closest known locations along the Guadalupe River drainage to the north.

Peregrine Falcon – A juvenile hatch year Peregrine Falcon was seen eating one of the released Aplomado Falcons (!) on Padre Island National Seashore, Kleberg Co 26 Jun (Spencer England).

Ash-throated Flycatcher – An Ash-throated Flycatcher observed at Hazel Bazemore Park, Nueces Co 10 Jul (Bruce Neville et al) was east of the species typical habitat.

Eastern Kingbird – An Eastern Kingbird present at South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, Cameron Co 15 Jun (Bill Beaty) was an oddity for the date and location as was one on El Sauz Ranch, Kenedy Co 21 Jun (Isaac Grosner, Ari Rice).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – A very late Olive-sided Flycatcher visited Estero Llano Grande State Park, Hidalgo Co 19 Jun (ph. John Yochum). One reported from Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve Nueces Co 7 Jun (ph. Ruben Ayala) was a bit more expected.

Yellow-green Vireo – A singing Yellow-green Vireo was discovered near Brownsville, Cameron Co (audio, Mary Beth Stowe).

Tamaulipas Crow – Two Tamaulipas Crows continued at the Brownsville Landfill, Cameron Co to 12 Jun (m.obs.).

Chihuahuan Raven – A lone Chihuahuan Raven reported from Powderhorn Ranch, Calhoun Co 4 Jun (Daniel Walker) that was at an odd location well away from the species usual haunts much further west.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reported from Knolle Ranch, Nueces Co 5 Jun may have been a late or lingering spring migrant (Mel Cooksey) while another bird seen in Edinburg, Hidalgo Co 3 Jul (Tim Brush) was probably an early fall migrant.

Cedar Waxwing – Not surprising considering the literal invasion of Cedar Waxwings into South Texas this past winter and spring were lingering birds present on South Padre Island, Cameron Co until 4 Jun (ph. Stephen Kallus et al). Another late bird seen at Choke Canyon State Park, McMullen Co 6 Jun (ph. T. Yarborough). However, a lone Cedar Waxwing spotted perched in a tree at Dagger Point at Aransas NWR, Aransas Co 20 Jun (Bob Showler) was definitely shocking!

Bay-breasted Warbler – A male Bay-breasted Warbler spotted at the Valley Land Fund Lots South Padre Island, Cameron Co 8 Jun (ph. Daniel Berra) was quite late.

Blackpoll Warbler – A female Blackpoll Warbler seen in a live oak in a Port Aransas, Nueces Co yard 22 Jun was on the late side.

Summer Tanager – A Summer Tanager reported from Estero Llano Grande State Park, Cameron Co 5 Jun (Tamie Bulow, Barrett Riess) may have been a late migrant.

Indigo Bunting – A female Indigo Bunting was reported from Refugio Co 10 Jun (Judi Williamson).

### **Cited Observers**

[Angie Arredondo](#)

[Ruben Ayala](#)

[Hud Baker](#)

[Kristy Baker](#)

[Bill Beaty](#)

[Richard Brittain](#)

[Daniel Berra](#)

[John Brush](#)

[Tim Brush](#)

[Tamie Bulow](#)

[Sheridan Coffey](#)

[Greg Cook](#)

Mel Cooksey  
Christopher Cron  
Spencer England  
Evan Farese  
Norma Friedrich  
Gail Griffin  
Dale Gawlik  
Steve Glover  
Rylee Gonzales  
Javi Gonzalez  
Isaac Grosner  
Jenna Hatfield  
Susan Heath  
Jenna Hatfield  
Petra Hockey  
Stephen Kallus  
Tom Langschied  
Justin LeClaire  
John Maresch  
Michael McCloy  
Jon McIntyre  
Bruce Neville  
Andrew Orgill  
Michael Orgill  
Jason Page  
Martin Reid  
Ari Rice  
Barrett Riess  
Bob Showler  
Mary Beth Stowe  
Clay Taylor  
Linda Vegh  
Daniel Walker  
Jeremy Webster  
Theresa Wiens  
Judi Williamson  
Damon Williford  
T. Yarborough  
John Yochum