

NORTHWEST TEXAS BIRD REPORT
FALL 2019
Prepared by Anthony Hewetson

TBRC review species are in **bold**. County names are in *italics*. All cited observers are listed, alphabetically, at the end of the report.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK: 31 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were seen at Dimmitt City Park, *Castro* 22 Sep (Peggy Trosper) and 14-28 were seen at the Aquatic Center, Hereford, *Deaf Smith* 8-15 Nov (Micah Schulze, Hannah Tripp) – these are high numbers at the northern end of the specie’s ongoing northward and westward expansion into the region.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: 2 White-winged Scoters were seen near Becton, *Lubbock* 30 Oct (Drew Harvey, photographs) – accidental to the region; the eleventh record for the Southern High Plains.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: One female Red-breasted Merganser was seen at the 103rd Street x Chicago Avenue Playa, *Lubbock* 3 Nov (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) – though the species is a regular winter visitor to the region, this sighting was very early.

COMMON MERGANSER: One Common Mergansers was at Pampa Recreation Park, *Gray* 3 Sep (Ben Sandstrom, photographs) – this is an incredibly early report for the region – or the bird lingered, undetected, through summer.

SCALED QUAIL: 54 Scaled Quail were seen near Hereford, *Deaf Smith* 5 Nov (Tony Kurz) – this is a very high number for this far northwest in our region!

HORNED GREBE: One Horned Grebe was seen near Becton, *Lubbock* 20 Oct (Jamie Court, Drew Harvey) – though this is a regular winter visitor to the region, this is a very early report.

EARED GREBE: 40 Eared Grebes were at McGee Lake, *Potter* 2 Sep (K Dean Edwards), 250 Eared Grebes were at Truscott Lake, *Knox* 21 Sep (Scot Wingo), and 140 Eared Grebes remained at Truscott Lake, *Knox* 2 Nov (Scot Wingo) – these are high numbers of this species for the region by contemporary standards.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: One Ruby-throated Hummingbird persisted at a Lubbock feeder, *Lubbock* through 22 Oct (Lyle Hale, photographs) – this is very late for the species to persist in the region.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD: One Broad-tailed Hummingbird persisted at a Lubbock feeder, *Lubbock* through 5 Oct (Anthony Hewetson, photograph), one Broad-tailed Hummingbird persisted at another Lubbock feeder, *Lubbock* through 2 Nov (Liam McGuire), and one-2 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds persisted at a third set of Lubbock

feeders, *Lubbock* through 3 Nov (Jim Crites, photographs) – these are late to incredibly late dates for the region.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: One male Rufous Hummingbird remained at a Lubbock feeder, *Lubbock* through 30 Nov – this is the most likely species of hummingbird to winter in the area but the report is still quite noteworthy.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER: Up to 20 American Golden Plovers were seen near Becton, *Lubbock* 20-29 Oct (Drew Harvey, Joe Cochran, Jordan Cochran, Jamie Court, Jim Crites, Peter Keyel, Brad Shine, Doug Smith, Sue Smith, photographs) – the species is very rare as a migrant through the region and this was a very high number for any sighting of the species in the region.

SNOWY PLOVER: 3 Snowy Plovers were seen at Mitchell Lake, *Haskell* 18 Aug (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) and 3 were seen near Rochester, *Haskell* 31 Aug (Scotty Lofland) – the status of this species in this part of the region is unclear, making the sighting very interesting.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: One Semipalmated Plover was seen at the CR 3700 cattle ponds, *Lubbock* 23 Oct (Drew Harvey) and 2 Semipalmated Plovers were seen near Becton, *Lubbock* 27 Oct (Jim Crites, photographs) – though not unprecedented these are quite late in the season for the species.

MARBLED GODWIT: One Marbled Godwit was seen near Hart, *Castro* 8 Sep (Steve Glover – this is a rare migrant through the region though this record occurred during the usual time frame. One Marbled Godwit was seen near Becton, *Lubbock* 20-27 Oct (Drew Harvey, Joe Cochran, Jim Crites) – this is a very rare migrant through the region **and** this represented yet another quite late shorebird report for the season.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: 54 Upland Sandpipers were reported from near Lake Pauline, *Hardeman* 24 Aug (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – good numbers for a single sighting - from an under-birded county.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: One Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at the CR 3700 cattle ponds, *Lubbock* 23 Oct (Drew Harvey) and one Pectoral Sandpiper was seen near Canyon, *Randall* 4 Nov (Peggy Trosper) – very late and exceptionally late reports respectively – part of the theme of late shorebird movement through the region.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: One Short-billed Dowitcher was seen at the Guthrie Playa, *King* 18 Aug (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – a very rare, possibly under-reported, migrant through the region and quite possibly a county record.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: 2 Solitary Sandpipers were seen near Idalou, *Lubbock* 19 Nov (Bobby Schat) – though not unprecedented, this is a rather late report.

WILLET: One Willet was seen at McAlister Park, *Lubbock* 12 Sep (Jim Crites) – a very rare migrant through the region.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 1000 Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at McGee Lake, *Potter* 2 Sep (K Dean Edwards) – a rather high number, by contemporary standards, for single report from the region.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: 3 Red-necked Phalaropes were at the Cone Playa, *Floyd* 24 Aug (Anthony Hewetson), 6 Red-necked Phalaropes were at Muleshoe NWR, *Bailey* 3 Sep (Glenda Kelly), one Red-necked Phalarope was seen near Claude, *Armstrong* 8 Sep (Steve Glover), and 9 Red-necked Phalaropes were found at Truscott Lake, *Knox* 12 Oct (Scot Wingo) – the species is a very rare migrant through the region; this season saw a good number of reports well-scattered across the region.

SABINE'S GULL: One Sabine's Gull was at Muleshoe NWR, *Bailey* 22-29 Sep (Glenda Kelly, Grant Beauprez, Matt Smith, photographs) and one Sabine's Gull was at McGee Lake, *Potter* 22 Sep (K Dean Edwards, photographs) – accidental to the region; amazing to have two in a single season!

LEAST TERN: One Least Tern was found near Becton, *Lubbock* 17-18 Aug (Drew Harvey, Joe Cochran) – formerly accidental to the Southern High Plains; no casual bordering on annual.

COMMON TERN: One Common Tern was seen at Greenways Park, *Randall* 7-10 Oct (Doug Smith, K Dean Edwards, Vicki Wilmarth, photographs) – casual, at best, in the region – a handful of reports for the Panhandle proper.

COMMON LOON: 2 Common Loons were found at the Shallowater Water Treatment Ponds, *Lubbock* 29 Oct (Drew Harvey, photographs) – though this is a regular winter visitor to the region, this was an unusually early report for the region.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 3 American White Pelicans were seen at Quincy Park, *Lubbock* 10 Nov (Lenz Zappia, Joe Cochran, photographs) – a large group for this early in the season.

LEAST BITTERN: One Least Bittern was seen below Buffalo Springs Lake, *Lubbock* 2 Nov (Jamie Court, Drew Harvey) – though the species is a very low-density breeder along the Canyon Lakes of Lubbock, this is a very late report for the region!

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: 2 Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found along the County Road T Playa, *Hansford* 3 Sep (ph. Ben Sandstrom) – this species is regular to the south but this is quite north for a sighting in the region.

GLOSSY IBIS: One Glossy Ibis was reported from Mitchell Lake, *Haskell* 18 Aug (Greg Cook) – accidental to the region; a first county record.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 2 Mississippi Kites were seen near Claude, *Armstrong* 4 Oct (Greg Cook) and one Mississippi Kite was found at Wheeler City Park, *Wheeler* 5 Oct (Greg Cook) – these reports are quite late for the Panhandle proper.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: One Swallow-tailed Kite was seen along Smelter Road, *Potter* 27 Aug (Raymond Burr, photographs) – accidental to the region; the fifth record for the entire region!

COOPER'S HAWK: One Cooper's Hawk was at Lake Meredith, *Potter* 17 Aug (Rod Goodwin, photographs), one Cooper's Hawk was at Greenways Park, *Randall* 22 Aug (K Dean Edwards, Vicki Wilmarth), one Cooper's Hawk was at Quitaque, *Briscoe* 24 Aug (Greg Cook, Steve Glover), one Cooper's Hawk was in The Woodlands, *Potter* 24 Aug (K Dean Edwards), and one Cooper's Hawk was at Lake Rita Blanca, *Hartley* 31 Aug (Vicki Wilmarth) - this species is being found at a wider range of locations within the region with each passing summer, making it possible, even likely, that these were summering birds as opposed to early migrants.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: One male Red-bellied Woodpecker was using a cavity near Davis Park, *Lubbock* 1-30 Nov (Holly Bundock, photographs) – the species is very rare, particularly as a persisting bird, this far west in the region.

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER: 2 Red-naped Sapsuckers were at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 12 Oct (Doug Smith, Sue Smith, Hannah Tripp, photographs) – though probably a regular migrant through the Panhandle proper it is rarely documented.

HAIRY WOODPECKER: One Hairy Woodpecker was at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 10 Nov (Hannah Tripp) and 2 Hairy Woodpeckers were at Lake Palo Duro, *Hansford* 25 Nov (John Berner, David Sarkozi) – the first record was a bit far south for the region and the latter record was well away from the species's usual haunts in our eastern woodlands or along the Canadian River breaks.

PEREGRINE FALCON: One Peregrine Falcon was found at the Himmel Farm, *Crosby* 13 Aug (Kelly Himmel) and one Peregrine Falcon was seen near Weinert, *Haskell* 24 Aug (Scotty Lofland) – though a regular winter visitor to the region, these are very early arrival dates for the region.

PRAIRIE FALCON: One Prairie Falcon was found at Dolomite Point, *Potter* 30 Aug (Rod Goodwin) – this is an early report for the region, possibly one of our rare summering birds.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: One Great Crested Flycatcher was seen at Lake Rita Blanca, *Hartley* 31 Aug (Vicki Wilmarth, photographs) – this is quite far west of the species normal range in the region.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD: 5 Cassin's Kingbirds were located at Buffalo Lake NWR, *Randall* 2 Oct (Doug Smith) – though this is the expected kingbird for the region this late in the season, this is an unusually high number for a single site.

EASTERN KINGBIRD: One Eastern Kingbird was seen near Tulia, *Swisher* 4 Sep (Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus) and one Eastern Kingbird was found at Coleman Park, *Terry* 10 Sep (Steve Glover) – both reports were well west of the species typical range in the region even as a post-breeding wanderer.

WESTERN WOOD PEWEE: One Western Wood Pewee was found at Aztlan Park, *Lubbock* 2 Oct (Phillip Kite) – though not unprecedented this is a late report for the season, typifying the protracted fall migration this season.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: One Least Flycatcher was seen at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 4-6 Oct (Joe Cochran, Bobby Schat) – while not unprecedented, this was a rather late report.

DUSKY FLYCATCHER: One Dusky Flycatcher was found at the Sundown Country Club, *Hockley* 9 Sep (Steve Glover) and one Dusky Flycatcher was seen at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 11 Sep (Drew Harvey) – the uncertain status of the western suite of flycatchers in the region makes these reports noteworthy.

'WESTERN' FLYCATCHER: One 'Western' Flycatcher was reported from Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 11-24 Nov (Jamie Court, Joe Cochran, Jordan Cochran, Jim Crites, Drew Harvey, Peter Keyel, Jennifer Miller, Bob Nieman, Brad Shine, Sandi Templeton) – this is a very late report for an empid in the region and, for a variety of reasons, we felt it unassignable to species.

BLACK PHOEBE: One Black Phoebe was seen at Aztlan Park, *Lubbock* 27-29 Sep (Phillip Kite, Jim Crites, Drew Harvey, Liam McGuire, photographs) and one Black Phoebe was seen at the 103rd Street x Chicago Avenue Playa, *Lubbock* 3-4 Nov (Liam McGuire, Drew Harvey, photographs) – formerly accidental to the region; now annual but still with little evidence of strong seasonality.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: 2 Vermilion Flycatchers were seen south of Crowell, *Foard* 18 Aug (Greg Cook, Steve Glover), 4 Vermilion Flycatchers were found west of Crowell, *Foard* 23 Aug (Till Burnett), and 2 Vermilion Flycatchers were at Longhorn RV Park, *Foard* 1 Sep (Till Burnett) – formerly accidental to the region; now annual with the species likely to pop up almost anywhere in the region and at any time of the year.

BELL'S VIREO: 3 Bell's Vireos were found at Baylor Lake, *Childress* 24 Aug (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) and 2 Bell's Vireos were found near Turkey, *Hall* 24 Aug (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – while no longer noteworthy, at any time during the breeding season, on the Southern High Plains, records from the northern edges of the region remain noteworthy.

RED-EYED VIREO: One Red-eyed Vireo was found at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 10 Sep (Steve Glover), one Red-eyed Vireo was seen in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 26 Sep (Jim Crites), and one Red-eyed Vireo was seen in a Littlefield yard, *Lamb* 4 Nov (Anona Roberts) – aside from being a rare migrant in the region, making all these reports noteworthy, the last report is a record late date for the region.

TREE SWALLOW: A very careful count of 2710 Tree Swallows, mostly static on power and fence lines, was had at Lake McGee, *Potter* 1 Sep (Anthony Hewetson) – though not unprecedented, per archives, this was a stunningly high count for a single site in the region.

CAVE SWALLOW: 4 Cave Swallows were found near Childress, *Childress* 24 Aug (Greg Cook, Steve Glover), 20 Cave Swallows were found near Turkey, *Hall* 24 Aug (Greg Cook, Steve Glover), and 11 Cave Swallows were found along Ranch Road 2301, *Swisher* 4 Oct (Greg Cook) – though no longer worthy of reporting from the southern portions of the region, these all represent the continued expansion of the species north into the Panhandle proper.

SEDGE WREN: One Sedge Wren was at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 8-12 Nov (Jordan Cochran, Drew Harvey) – accidental to casual in the region with reports tending to cluster during wetter, milder years.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: 7 Mountain Bluebirds were found at Copper Breaks State Park, *Hardeman* 26 Oct (Greg Cook) and 1 Mountain Bluebirds was seen at Truscott Lake, *Knox* 2 Nov (Scot Wingo) – these records are both well to the east of the species' typical range in the region.

GRAY CATBIRD: One Gray Catbird was found in Canyon, *Randall* 18 Oct (Jared Lee), one-2 Gray Catbirds were at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 18-31 Oct (Christine Lepage, Michael Robert, Mark Elliott, Doug Smith, Sue Smith, photographs), and one Gray Catbird was found in Happy, *Swisher* 1 Nov (Tony Leukering, Kathy Mihm Dunning) – all of these records were running a bit late, particularly for the Panhandle proper.

SAGE THRASHER: One Sage Thrasher was found near Kress, *Swisher* 25 Aug (Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus) – this is a very early record for this late fall/early winter visitor to the region.

BROWN THRASHER: One Brown Thrasher was seen at Yoakum County Park, *Yoakum* 10 Sep (Steve Glover) – this is quite far west for the species in the region; one of very records for our western tier of counties.

LESSER GOLDFINCH: 3 Lesser Goldfinches were found at Lake Rita Blanca, *Hartley* 17 Aug (Doug Smith, Sue Smith) and one Lesser Goldfinch was seen in The Woodlands, *Potter* 5 Nov (K Dean Edwards) – the former report was well north of typical range; the latter report is rather late for this far north in the region.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW: One Black-throated Sparrow was seen at Buffalo Lake NWR, *Randall* 21-23 Aug (Todd McGrath, Martin Reid) and one Black-throated Sparrow was found at Rita Blanca National Grasslands, *Dallam* 9 Sep (Greg Lasley, Martin Reid) – formerly a little more wide-ranging in the region, the species is now, essentially, accidental for the Panhandle proper.

CHIPPING SPARROW: One Chipping Sparrow was seen at Caprock Canyons State Park, *Briscoe* 24 Nov (Will Jaremko-Wright) – a rather later report for this far north in the region.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: One Yellow-breasted Chat persisted in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* through 20 Oct (Jim Crites, photographs) – though this is a regular fall migrant through the region, this is a very late report.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: One Baltimore Oriole was seen in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 7 Sep (Jim Crites), one-2 Baltimore Orioles were found at Thompson Park, *Potter* 13-19 Sep (K Dean Edwards), and one Baltimore Oriole was seen in Rotan, *Stonewall* 14 Sep (Todd Fitzgerald) – the first two sightings were well west of their normal range in the region; the last report was from an under-birded county and may shed light on the species' normal range.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: One Tennessee Warbler was found at Buffalo Lake NWR, *Randall* 22-25 Sep (Doug Smith, Sue Smith) and one Tennessee Warbler was seen in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 25 Oct (Ken Dixon) – this species is rather rare as a migrant in the region and both records, particularly the latter, were quite late in the season for the region.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: One Orange-crowned Warbler was found near Kress, *Swisher* 23 Aug (Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus) – this was notably early.

NASHVILLE WARBLER: One Nashville Warbler was seen in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 7 Oct (Jim Crites) and one Nashville Warbler was seen at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 8-16 Nov (Jordan Cochran, Joe Cochran, Jim Crites) – the first report was late; the latter, though not unprecedented, was remarkably late.

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER: One Virginia's Warbler was seen in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 2 Oct (Jim Crites) – though not unprecedentedly so, this was part of the pattern of late songbird migrants in the region.

AMERICAN REDSTART: One American Redstart was found at the CR 221 x FM 193 Playa, *Crosby* 24 Aug (Anthony Hewetson) – this is a fairly early report for the region; one of the early songbirds of the unusually protracted fall push.

NORTHERN PARULA: One Northern Parula was seen at Lubbock Lake Landmark, *Lubbock* 12 Sep (Bobby Schat) and one Northern Parula was found at Palo Duro Canyon

State Park, *Randall* 11 Nov (Vicki Wilmarth) – a rare migrant in the region; the latter report was notably late!

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: One Magnolia Warbler was seen in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 30 Sep (Jim Crites) and one Magnolia Warbler was seen at Buffalo Lake NWR, *Randall* 13 Oct (Doug Smith, Sue Smith, photographs) – a very rare migrant in the region and, with the latter report, another very late migrant.

YELLOW WARBLER: One Yellow Warbler was found on the Himmel Farm, *Crosby* 4 Aug (Kelly Himmel) and 2 Yellow Warblers were seen at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 6 Oct (Bobby Schat) – the first record was surprisingly early; the latter report was stunningly late!

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: One Black-throated Gray Warbler was found at Cochran County Park, *Cochran* 1 Sep (Greg Cook), one Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen at Thompson Park, *Potter* 5 Sep (Ben Sandstrom), one Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen at Reeve Field, Friona, *Parmer* 8 Sep (Grant Beauprez), and one Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 11 Sep (Jim Crites, Drew Harvey, Jennifer Miller, photographs) – this is a very rare migrant through the region; four widely-separated reports is something of a record for a single season.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER: 4 Townsend's Warblers were located at Buffalo Lake NWR, *Randall* 23 Aug (Doug Smith) – though a reasonably regular migrant in the region, this is an exceptionally large number for a single site.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: One Black-throated Green Warbler was at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 10-17 Sep (Doug Smith, Sue Smith, photographs) and one Black-throated Green Warbler was found in Amarillo, *Randall* 23 Oct (Doug Smith, photographs) – a very rare migrant through the region and the latter report a very late report for the species in the region.

WILSON'S WARBLER: One Wilson's Warbler was seen at Lake Rita Blanca, *Hartley* 17 Aug (Doug Smith, Sue Smith), one Wilson's Warbler was seen at Lake Meredith, *Potter* 17 Aug (Rod Goodwin), and one Wilson's Warbler was found at Thompson Park, *Potter* 19 Aug (K Dean Edwards) – all three of these reports are early for the region.

SUMMER TANAGER: One Summer Tanager was seen at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 4 Oct (Joe Cochran) – another remarkably late songbird report for the region.

WESTERN TANAGER: One Western Tanager was seen at the Himmel Farm, *Crosby* 9 Oct (Kelly Himmel) and one Western Tanager was seen in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 10 Oct (Jim Crites) – both of these are very late reports.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: One Black-headed Grosbeak was seen at Lake Six, *Lubbock* 2 Oct (Phillip Kite) – another very late report for the region.

LAZULI BUNTING: One Lazuli Bunting was seen at Thompson Park, *Potter* 21 Aug (Doug Smith) – a rather rare migrant for the region.

PAINTED BUNTING: One female Painted Bunting was seen in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 2 Oct (George Jury, Pat Jury) – a rather late report for the region. An aberrantly plumaged male Painted Bunting was at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 17-19 Nov (Doug Smith, Sue Smith, Madison White, Todd White, photographs) – this is a remarkably late report for the region, particularly for a male bird, and one wonders at the coincidence of plumage aberration and aseasonality.

Cited observers: Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus, Grant Beauprez, John Berner, Holly Bundock, Till Burnett, Raymond Burr, Joe Cochran, Jordan Cochran, Greg Cook, Jamie Court, Jim Crites, Ken Dixon, K Dean Edwards, Mark Elliott, Todd Fitzgerald, Steve Glover, Rod Goodwin, Lyle Hale, Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson, Kelly Himmel, Will Jaremko-Wright, George Jury, Pat Jury, Glenda Kelly, Peter Keyel, Phillip Kite, Tony Kurz, Jared Lee, Christine Lepage, Tony Leukering, Scotty Lofland, Todd McGrath, Liam McGuire, Kathy Mihm Dunning, Jennifer Miller, Bob Nieman, Martin Reid, Michael Robert, Anona Roberts, Ben Sandstrom, David Sarkozi, Bobby Schat, Brad Shine, Micah Shulze, Doug Smith, Matt Smith, Sue Smith, Sandi Templeton, Hannah Tripp, Peggy Trosper, Madison White, Todd White, Vicki Wilmarth, Scot Wingo, Lena Zappia.