

NORTHWEST TEXAS BIRD REPORT
SPRING 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 – 2 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were seen at Andrews Park, *Lubbock* 31 Mar-7 Apr (Anthony Hewetson, Rich Kostecke, multiple observers, photographs), 16-32 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were at Dimmitt City Park, *Castro* 13-27 Apr (Brandon Best, Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson, multiple observers, photographs), and 2-21 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were at Veterans' Park, *Deaf Smith* 22 Apr-25 May (Greg Cook, Peggy Trosper) – formerly accidental to the region; now expanding ever further northward and westward.

TUNDRA SWAN – One Tundra Swan was at Lake Meredith, *Hutchinson* 1 Mar (Mark Elliott, photographs) – a very rare winter visitor.

MEXICAN DUCK – 2 Mexican Ducks were at the O'Donnell Playa, *Lynn* (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) and one Mexican Duck was at Guy Park, *Lubbock* 2 Apr (Joe Cochran) – status currently unclear in the region as the species has not been tracked until recently.

GREATER SCAUP – One Greater Scaup was at Buffalo Springs Lake, *Lubbock* 4 Mar (Drew Harvey), one Greater Scaup was at Buffalo Springs Lake, *Lubbock* 23 Apr (Jim Cfrites), and one Greater Scaup was at the County Road H Playa, *Sherman* 26 May (Greg Cook) - very rare or somewhat under-reported in the region; thee reports across a spring season is pretty remarkable.

BUFFLEHEAD – 2 Buffleheads were at McAlister Park, *Lubbock* 4 May (James Court) – this is very late for a sighting, particularly this far south in the region.

HOODED MERGANSER – One Hooded Merganser was at Lake Marvin, *Hemphill* 27 May (Greg Cook) – a very late sighting.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER – One Red-breasted Merganser was at Buffalo Springs Lake, *Lubbock* 4 Mar (Drew Harvey) – another rather late sighting for the region.

WESTERN GREBE – One Western Grebe was seen at Lake Rita Blanca, *Hartley* 26 May (Ethan Kistler, Billi Krochuk) and 8 Western Grebes were at Lake Meredith, *Moore* 30 May (Mark Elliott) – rare as a winter visitor; close to accidental as a spring migrant or breeder.

CLARK'S GREBE – 4 Clark's Grebes were seen at Lake Meredith, *Hutchinson* 13 May (Rod Goodwin) and 6 Clark's Grebes were seen at Lake Meredith, *Moore* 30 May (Mark Elliott) – very rare as a winter visitor, close to accidental as a spring migrant and breeder.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – One Black-billed Cuckoo was found along Farm Road 2266, *Hemphill* 27 May (Greg Cook) – accidental to the region; one of a handful of records in the Panhandle proper.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK – One Common Nighthawk over TTU HSC, *Lubbock* 20 Mar (Anthony Hewetson) – a very early report; the third earliest report for the region with all early records occurring during the last five years.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD – One Black-chinned Hummingbird was in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 26 Mar (Anthony Hewetson) and one Black-chinned Hummingbird was in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 28 Mar (Jeremy Clark) – formerly accidental this early in the season; we now expect the first arrivals during the last week of March.

WHOOPIING CRANE – One Whooping Crane was at the O'Donnell Playa, *Lynn* 4 Mar (Bobby Schat) – formerly considered accidental to the region; now close to annual.

AMERICAN AVOCET – 3 American Avocets were at Haskell County Lake, *Haskell* 17 Mar (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – formerly accidental this early in the season; now expected during the third week of March.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER – 3 Black-bellied Plovers were at Haskell County Lake, *Haskell* 17 Mar (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – this is fairly early, even for the southeastern portion of the region.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER – One American Golden Plover was at the O'Donnell Playa, *Lynn* 24 Mar (Greg Cook), 2 American Golden Plovers were at the Skeen Playa, *Lynn* 24 Mar (Greg Cook), one American Golden Plover was seen near Wolfforth, *Lubbock* 26 Mar (Drew Harvey), and one American Golden Plover was seen at the Helium Road Play, *Randall* 1 Apr (K Dean Edwards) – formerly casual in the region; now, for some reason, annual as a spring migrant.

WHIMBREL – 2-5 Whimbrels were seen near Wolfforth, *Lubbock* 27-28 Mar (Joe Cochran, Drew Harvey) and 3 Whimbrels were at the Hart Irrigation Ponds, *Castro* 22 Apr (Greg Cook) – a very rare migrant through the region.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW – 311 Long-billed Curlews were seen near Morton, *Cochran* 16 Mar (T. Jay Adams, Drew Harvey) – a fairly regular visitor to the region but this is a very high number for a single sighting anywhere in the region.

DUNLIN – 16 Dunlins were seen at Haskell County Lake, *Haskell* 17 Mar (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) and 4 Dunlins were at the Skeen Playa, *Lynn* 24 Mar (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – a very rare migrant; sightings of multiple birds are even more unusual.

WESTERN SANDPIPER – One Western Sandpiper were seen at the Skeen Playa, *Lynn* 24 Mar (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – a very early report for the region.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER – 110 Long-billed Dowitchers were seen at the Skeen Playa, *Lynn* 24 Mar (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) and 27 were seen at the Helium Road Playa, *Randall* 28 Mar (K Dean Edwards) – very high numbers for this early in the season.

WILLET – One Willet was seen at the Tulia Water Treatment Plant, *Swisher* 27 Apr (Anthony Hewetson) and one Willet was seen at the TTU HSC fields, *Lubbock* 11-12 May (Glenda Kelly, Peter Keyel, multiple observers, photographs) – formerly close to casual in the region; now an annual, albeit rare, migrant.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS – 27 Greater Yellowlegs were at the Skeen Playa, *Lynn* 24 Mar (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – a very high number for a single sighting this early in the season.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE – 5 Red-necked Phalaropes were at the Tulia Water Treatment Ponds, *Swisher* 10 May (Wyatt Egelhoff) – a high number for a single sighting in the region.

FRANKLIN'S GULL – 57 Franklin's Gulls were seen below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 7 Apr (Drew Harvey), 57 Franklin's Gulls were seen near Woodlands, *Potter* 13 Apr (K Dean Edwards), and 61 Franklin's Gulls were seen near Wellington, *Collingsworth* 23 Apr (John-Edd Brown) – though the species is a regular migrant through the region these numbers were remarkable!

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – One Lesser Black-backed Gull was in Amarillo, *Randall* 7-21 Mar (K. Dean Edwards, Matthew Sim) – casual to the region with most records occurring in the last decade.

COMMON TERN – One Common Tern was at Buffalo Springs Lake, *Lubbock* 6-7 May (Drew Harvey, Jim Crites) – formerly considered casual to the region; now seen on an almost annual basis.

COMMON LOON – 2 Common Loons were seen at Lake Alan Henry, *Garza* 25 Mar (Stephen Kasper), one Common Loon was at Lake Meredith, *Moore* 25 Apr (Mark Elliott), and one Common Loon was at Guy Park, *Lubbock* 30 Apr-1 May (Joe Cochran, Liam McGuire, Jennifer Miller, multiple observers, photographs) – quite rare in the region with each record becoming even surprisingly later.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – 20 American White Pelicans were seen at White River Lake, *Crosby* 5 May (Susan Bergeson, Manuel De Leon) – this is a rather high number for any single sighting on the Southern High Plains.

GLOSSY IBIS – One Glossy Ibis was seen at Judge Rhyne Park, *Terry* 20-21 Apr (Greg Cook, Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson, photographs) and one Glossy Ibis was seen at

Dimmitt City Park, *Castro* 22 Apr (Greg Cook, photographs) – accidental to the region; less than a handful of records for the entire region.

OSPREY – One Osprey was seen at Ransom Lake, *Lubbock* 27 May (Bobby Schat) – this is a very late report for the region.

WHITE-TAILED HAWK – 2 White-tailed Hawks were seen near Truscott, *Knox* (Cole Caswell, Sylus Caswell, Christina Klein) – accidental to the region; the second record for the entire region!

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – One Broad-winged Hawk was seen in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 25 May (Clint Boal) – this is very late for the region; bordering on a breeding attempt.

SHORT-EARED OWL – One Short-eared Owl was seen below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 7 Apr (Drew Harvey) – this is a fairly late report for the region.

CRESTED CARACARA – One Crested Caracara was seen near Justiceburg, *Garza* 2 May (Anthony Hewetson) – accidental to the region; one of a handful of reports for the entire region.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE – One Eastern Wood Pewee was seen and heard at Boys' Ranch, *Oldham* 25 May (Greg Cook) – very rare in the region; accidental this far to the west.

ALDER FLYCATCHER – One Alder Flycatcher was seen and heard at Matador WMA, *Cottle* 11 May (Wyatt Egelhoff) – very rare in the region; potentially under-reported due to defaulting to Willow Flycatcher.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – One Vermilion Flycatcher was seen near Hale Center, *Hale* 23 Mar (Fred Collins, Dennis Shepler), one Vermilion Flycatcher was at Matador WMA, *Cottle* 16 May (Wyatt Egelhoff), one Vermilion Flycatcher was seen near Dickens, *Dickens* 24 May (Greg Cook), and one Vermilion Flycatcher was seen along Tascosa Road, *Potter* 25 May (Jordan Spalding) – formerly accidental to the region; now annual with breeding suspected in some areas.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO – One Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Buffalo Springs Lake, *Lubbock* 16 Apr (Jim Crites) – formerly accidental to the region; now closing on annual.

COMMON RAVEN – One Common Raven was seen near Avoca, *Haskell* 17 Mar (D.D. Currie, Dell Little) – increasing in the region but this is at the northeastern edge of recent reports.

CACTUS WREN – 4 Cactus Wrens were reported from Cholla Flats, *Deaf Smith* 6 May (Will Jaremko-Wright) – though habitat is available this is rather far west and north by recent years' standards.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD – 2 Eastern Bluebirds were seen at Veterans' Park, *Deaf Smith* 23 Apr (Greg Cook) – this is rather far west for the species in our region.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD – 10 Mountain Bluebirds were seen near Crowell, *Foard* 17 Mar (Till Burnett), 10 Mountain Bluebirds were at Benjamin Lake, *Knox* 17 Mar (Greg Cook, Steve Glover), 2 Mountain Bluebirds were near Truscott, *Knox* 17 Mar (Scot Wingo) – all of these reports are quite a bit further east than expected.

VEERY – One Veery was seen at Coleman Park, *Terry* 21 Apr (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) – formerly considered accidental to the region; status is probably closer to casual or, with more observer effort, annual.

GRAY CATBIRD: One Gray Catbird persisted at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 1 Mar-8 Apr (Jordan Cochran) – continuing bird; the first successful wintering attempt for the region in some time.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT: One Sprague's Pipit was seen and heard at McAlister Park, *Lubbock* 12 Mar (Drew Harvey) – formerly considered casual to the region; now known to be an annual spring migrant.

CASSIN'S FINCH: One female Cassin's Finch was at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 14-17 Mar (Dough Smith, Sue Smith, Marvin Elliott, Susan Elliott) – a rare winter visitor to the region; this bird was seen a tad late in the season.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW – One Black-throated Sparrow was at the Lubbock Cemetery, *Lubbock* 30 Mar (Phillip Kite) and four Black-throated Sparrows were tallied at Lake Alan Henry, *Garza* 12 Apr (Stephen Kasper) – status uncertain in the region – varies from accidental to streaks as a rare breeder.

HARRIS'S SPARROW – One Harris's Sparrow was seen at the Denver City Nature Trail, *Yoakum* 30 Mar (Drew Harvey, Rich Kostecke) – accidental this far southwest in the region; the first record for the county.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW – One White-throated Sparrow was seen at Buffalo Springs Lake, *Lubbock* 24 Apr (Brad Shine) – a rather late report by recent years' standards.

BRONZED COWBIRD – 38 male Bronzed Cowbirds were seen at Coleman Park, *Terry* 21 Apr (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) – a very large number for a single sighting in the region. One Bronzed Cowbird was seen near Kress, *Swisher* 27 Apr (Anthony Hewetson) – evidence that the northward expansion continues.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD – One Brewer's Blackbird was found along County Road Z, *Swisher* 25-29 May (Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus) – though birds are regularly found into early May, these reports were truly on the late side.

COMMON GRACKLE - 32 Common Grackles were counted near the Bovina Water Treatment Ponds, *Parmer* 13 Apr (Brandon Best, Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) – the species is edging further west with each passing year but this was a remarkable number for a single sighting this far west.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER – One Prothonotary Warbler was found at Coleman Park, *Terry* 21 Apr (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) – formerly considered accidental to the region; now considered casual.

TENNESSEE WARBLER - One Tennessee Warbler was found in Friona, *Parmer* 27 Apr (Anthony Hewetson) and one Tennessee Warbler was at the Farwell Country Club, *Parmer* 10 May (Wyatt Egelhoff) – a very rare migrant through the region; possibly under-reported.

NASHVILLE WARBLER – One Nashville Warbler was seen below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 7 Apr (Drew Harvey) – this report was rather on the early side; a week or two before we expect our first arrival.

HOODED WARBLER – One male Hooded Warbler was seen at Buffalo Springs Lake, *Lubbock* 17 Apr (Drew Harvey) and one male Hooded Warbler was found at Coleman Park, *Terry* 21 Apr (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) – a very rare, but annual, spring migrant through the region.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER – One Bay-breasted Warbler was at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 19-20 May (Drew Harvey, Jennifer Miller, multiple observers, photographs) – a casual migrant through the region.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER – One Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* (Andrea Blevins, Thomas Blevins) – a casual, closing on annual, migrant to the region.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER – One Townsend's Warbler was seen in Floydada, *Floyd* 21 Apr (Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus), one Townsend's Warbler was seen in Plainview, *Hale* 21 Apr (Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus), and one Townsend's Warbler was seen in Friona, *Parmer* 27 Apr (Anthony Hewetson) – though the species is seen annually, this was a better than usual scatter of sightings.

HERMIT WARBLER – One Hermit Warbler was seen in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 29 Apr (Jeremy Clark) – accidental to the region; the third or fourth record for the entire region.

CANADA WARBLER – One Canada Warbler ran into a window in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 25 May (Joseph Manthey, photographs) – formerly accidental to the region; now closing on casual.

WILSON'S WARBLER – One Wilson's Warbler was seen in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 28 Mar (Jeremy Clark) – though not unprecedented this is a fairly early date for this species to hit the region.

PAINTED REDSTART – One male Painted Redstart was found at Wayland Baptist University, *Hale* 2-3 Apr (Andrew Kasner, Niler Pyeatt, photographs) – accidental to the region; the second record for our archives.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK – 2 female and 2 male Black-headed Grosbeaks showed up at the same time in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 4 May (Kevin McClaran) – though the species is regular during migration, this is a stunning number for any single site in the region.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK – One male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 25-26 Apr (Peggy Trosper, Doug Smith) and one Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 29 May (Doug Smith) – good number of sightings for a single site.

LAZULI BUNTING – One Lazuli Bunting was seen at Guy Park, *Lubbock* 1 May (Perter Keyel, Liam McGuire, Brad Shine), one Lazuli Bunting was in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 2-6 May (Liam McGuire), and 1-3 singing Lazuli Buntings could be found below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 11-30 May (Jim Crites, Liam McGuire, William Wenthe) – rare as a migrant in the region and the birds below Lake Six appeared to be taking a stab at breeding.

PAINTED BUNTING – One Painted Bunting was found along County Road 260, *Cochran* 25 May (Greg Cook) – the species can be quite hard to find this far west in the region.

Cited observers: T. Jay Adams, Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus, Brandon Best, Susan Bergeson, Andrea Blevins, Thomas Blevins, Till Burnett, John-Edd Brown, Cole Caswell, Sylus Caswell, Jeremy Clark, Joe Cochran, Jordan Cochran, Fred Collins, Greg Cook, James Court, Jim Crites, D. D. Currie, K Dean Edwards, Manuel De Leon, Wyatt Egelhoff, Mark Elliott, Marvin Elliott, Susan Elliott, Erich Fickle, Luelia Fickle, Steve Glover, Rod Goodwin, Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson, Will Jaremko-Wright, Andrew Kasner, Stephen Kasper, Glenda Kelly, Peter Keyel, Ethan Kistler, Phillip Kite, Christina Klein, Rich Kostecke, Billi Krochuk, Dell Little, Joseph Manthey, Kevin McClaran, Liam McGuire, Jennifer Miller, Niler Pyeatt, David Sarkozi, Bobby Schat, Dennis Shepler, Brad Shine, Doug Smith, Sue Smith, Jordan Spalding, Peggy Trosper, William Wenthe, Scot Wingo.