

NORTHWEST TEXAS BIRD REPORT
SUMMER 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 – One Black-bellied Whistling Duck was seen at Southeast Park, *Randall* 6 Jun (Benji Brooks) and one Black-bellied Whistling Duck was seen at Maxey Park, *Lubbock* 23 Jun (Anthony Hewetson) – formerly accidental to the region, the species is now closing on status as a very rare resident.

REDHEAD – 21-28 Redheads were at the CR 152 Playa, *Crosby* 30 Jun-14 Jul (Kelly Himmel), 29 Redheads were at Winchester Lake, *Haskell* 14 Jul (Greg Cook, Steve Glover), and 15-27 Redheads were at the Himmel Farm, *Crosby* 13-15 Jul (Kelly Himmel) – though the species is found in the region during summer, these were exceptionally large numbers for any site in the region during the breeding season.

HOODED MERGANSER – A juvenile Hooded Merganser was at McAlister Park, *Lubbock* 1-7 Jun (Jim Crites, photographs) – puzzling, perhaps indicative of local breeding?

WESTERN GREBE – One-2 Western Grebes were at Lake Meredith, *Hutchinson* 10 Jun (Rod Goodwin, Marvin Steinback) and one Western Grebe was seen at Greenways Park, *Randall* 20-21 Jun (K Dean Edwards, Dough Smith, Sue Smith) – a very rare summer visitor to the Panhandle proper.

COMMON GROUND DOVE – One Common Ground Dove was at the CR 301 Woodlot, *Cottle* 13 Jun (Drew Harvey) – this species is a very rare visitor to the region with very odd scatter.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW – One Chuck-will's-widow as seen at White River Lake, *Crosby* 27 Jul (Anthony Hewetson) – this is at the very western edge of the species range on the Southern High Plains.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD – One Rufous Hummingbird was seen below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 14 Jul (Peter Keyel) – this is a fairly early sighting for the region, tripping eBird flags as one of our earliest reports.

VIRGINIA RAIL – One Virginia Rail was at Lake Six, *Lubbock* 27 Jul (Drew Harvey, Barry Keith, Phillip Kite, Neo McAdams, Skyler Parks) – one of a handful of summer reports for the Southern High Plains.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW – 4 Long-billed Curlews were seen at Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, *Bailey* 28 Jun (Brent Ortego, Dora Ann Ortego) – very rare this far south in the region during summer.

MARBLED GODWIT – One Marbled Godwit was seen at Winchester Lake, *Haskell* 14 Jul (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – status in this part of the region uncertain but quite rare anywhere else in the region.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS – 80 Lesser Yellowlegs were seen at Winchester Lake, *Haskell* 14 Jul (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – generally findable by mid-July but with was a very large number for a single sighting.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE – 2 Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, *Bailey* 28 Jun (Brent Ortego, Dora Ann Ortego) – very rare in the region during summer.

COMMON LOON – One Common Loon was seen at the Amarillo Regulating Reservoir, *Potter* 18 Jun (Rod Goodwin, photographs) – accidental in the region during the summer period.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT – 2 adult and one immature Neotropic Cormorant were at Leroy Elmore Park, *Lubbock* 1 Jun-31 Jul (Peter Keyel, Anthony Hewetson) – formerly accidental in the region; now known to have bred at this site two years in a row.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN – 30 American White Pelicans were at Ransom Lake, *Lubbock* 24 Jun (Steve Chapman) – though found in the region regularly, this is an unusually high number for a single sighting on the Southern High Plains.

GLOSSY IBIS – One Glossy Ibis was found at Winchester Lake, *Haskell* 14 Jul (Greg Cook, Steve Glover, photographs) – accidental to the region; almost certainly a first county record!

COOPER'S HAWK – One-2 Cooper's Hawks were below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 1 Jun-31 Jul (Jim Crites, Petery Keyel, Bobby Schat, Zachary Schwab), one-3 Cooper's Hawks were seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 1 Jun-31 Jul (Doug Smith, Sue Smith, Ashley Smith), and one Cooper's Hawk was seen at Fair Park, *Childress* 8 Jun (Dave Hawksworth) – though the species has bred in the region before, we are now into the second year in a row of unusually large numbers being reported during the summer.

HARRIS'S HAWK – One Harris's Hawk was found below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 4 Jun (Jim Crites) – a spotty visitor and occasional breeder to/in the region but no evidence of breeding this year.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – 2 Broad-winged Hawks evidently pulled off a successful breeding attempt (2 adults and one juvenile were seen towards the end of the period) somewhere in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 1 Jun-31 Jul (Clint Boal).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER – One Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at the Lubbock Cemetery, *Lubbock* 15 Jun (Tess Trost) – this is the second year in a row with a late June report; the second latest spring date for the region!

WESTERN WOOD PEWEE – One Western Wood Pewee was at Yoakum County Park, *Yoakum* 2 Jun (Peter Keyel), one Western Wood Pewee was seen below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 4 Jun (Jim Crites), one Western Wood Pewee was seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 5-6 Jun (Doug Smith) – all of these reports are quite late, typical of many of the flycatchers this season.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER – One Willow Flycatcher was seen near Bainer, *Lamb* 2 Jun (Anthony Hewetson) – another fairly late flycatcher report.

LEAST FLYCATCHER – One Least Flycatcher was seen along County Road Z, *Swisher* 3 Jun (Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus) – another late flycatcher report.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER – One Vermilion Flycatcher was seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* (Doug Smith, Sue Smith, photographs) – formerly accidental to the region; now seen annually with records reported further north and west each year.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD – One Cassin's Kingbird was found near Friona, *Parmer* 7 Jun (Drew Harvey) – accidental to the region as a summer migrant or visitor.

WHITE-EYED VIREO – 2 White-eyed Vireos were found at Caprock Canyon State Park, *Briscoe* 13 Jul (Jim Crites) – the species probably pulls off an occasional breeding attempt in the eastern portions of the region; two counter-singing birds is interesting.

WARBLING VIREO – One Warbling Vireo was below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 1-23 Jun (Jim Crites, Zachary Schwab) – the species occasionally tries to breed in the region but singing males, such as this one, have yet to be documented attracting a female.

CAVE SWALLOW – 11 Cave Swallows were seen near Circle, *Lamb* 2 Jun (Anthony Hewetson) – records from further south in the region are no longer worth tracking but this is further evidence that that species is filling in, as a breeder, further north with each year.

CACTUS WREN – One Cactus Wren was found along Tascosa Road, *Potter* 11 Jun (Will Jaremko-Wright) – this is fairly far to the north for a contemporary sighting in the region.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH – One Swainson's Thrush was found in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 8 Jun (Natasja Vangestel, photographs) – this is a record late date for the Southern High Plains.

GRAY CATBIRD – One Gray Catbird was seen at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 6 Jun (Brad Shine) – more evidence of an unusually late or protracted spring movement this season.

FIELD SPARROW – 6 Field Sparrows were found at White River Lake, *Crosby* 27 Jul (Anthony Hewetson) – this isolated breeding colony continues to hold on and, if more of the appropriate habitat were covered, numbers would probably be higher.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT – 24 Yellow-breasted Chats were found at White River Lake, *Crosby* 27 Jul (Anthony Hewetson – this continues to be the largest and densest concentration of breeding Yellow-breasted Chats in the region.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – 6 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found near Chillicothe, *Hardeman* 11 Jul (Brenda Gonzales) and 2 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at Winchester Lake, *Haskell* 14 Jul (Greg Cook, Steve Glover) – true summer sightings of the species are quite rare; these might have been early fall birds.

YELLOW WARBLER – One Yellow Warbler was found near Friona, *Parmer* 7 Jun (Drew Harvey) and one Yellow Warbler was seen at White River Lake, *Crosby* 27 Jul (Anthony Hewetson) – the first sighting was an unusually late spring migrant; the second sighting was either an extremely early fall migrant or, possibly – given proximity to former breeding sites in the panhandle, a bird that attempted breeding.

SUMMER TANAGER – One male Summer Tanager was found at White River Lake, *Crosby* 27 Jul (Anthony Hewetson) and one female Summer Tanager was observed with 2 fledglings below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 27 Jul (Drew Harvey, Phillip Kite, Skyler Parks) – the first site is an established breeding location; the second site represents, probably, the first breeding record documented for Lubbock County.

LAZULI BUNTING – One-2 male Lazuli Buntings were seen below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 4 Jun-14 Jul (James Court, Jim Crites, Peter Keyel, Jennifer Miller, Bobby Schat, Zachary Schwab, Brad Shine) – these birds sang throughout the period and, given the species' proclivity for hybridization, might have bred with Painted Buntings at the site – no nests were located.

INDIGO BUNTING – One male Indigo Bunting was seen near Post, *Garza* 1 Jun (Anthony Hewetson), one male was seen in Post, *Garza* 1 Jun (Anthony Hewetson), and 4 females/7 males/11 fledglings were found at White River Lake, *Crosby* 27 Jul (Anthony Hewetson) – formerly accidental to the region in summer; now an established breeder and this seemed to be a good year in the region for the species as a breeder.

Cited observers: Connie Andrus, Marlin Andrus, Clint Boal, Benji Brooks, Steve Chapman, Greg Cook, James Court, Jim Crites, K Dean Edwards, Brenda Gonzales, Drew Harvey, Steve Glover, Rod Goodwin, Anthony Hewetson, Kelly Himmel, Will Jaremko-Wright, Barry Keith, Peter Keyel, Phillip Kite, Neo McAdams, Jennifer Miller, Brent Ortego, Dora Ann Ortego, Skyler Parks, Bobby Schat, Zachary Schwab, Brad Shine, Ashley Smith, Doug Smith, Sue Smith, Marvin Steinback, Tess Trost, Natasja Vangestel.