

NORTHWEST TEXAS BIRD REPORT  
SUMMER 2021

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 at Givens Park, Plainview, Hale Co 15 Jun (Melba Olsen), 2 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were seen near Dimmitt, Castro Co 2 Jul (John Berner, Drew Dickert), and 3 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were at Veteran's Park, Deaf Smith Co 17 Jul (Bruce Cramer) – a good spread of sighting along the edge of the species' ever-expanding range.

**REDHEAD**: 24 Redheads were at the CR 197 Playas, Crosby Co 10 Jul (Kelly Himmel) – a high number for a truly summer sighting.

**EARED GREBE**: 5 Eared Grebes were at Truscott Brine Lake, Knox Co 7 Jul (Scotty Lofland) – a good number for this well-birded site in a poorly-birded county.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD**: One female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was in a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 25-29 Jul (Anthony Hewetson) – this represents a rather early sighting for this species in the region.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**: One male Rufous Hummingbird was in a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 6 Jul (Anthony Hewetson) and one male Rufous Hummingbird was at the Himmel Farm, Crosby Co 13 Jul (Kelly Himmel) – early reports for the region.

**CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD**: One male Calliope Hummingbird was seen at the Lockwood Farm, Crosby Co 26-29 Jul (Mark Lockwood, photographs) – another early hummingbird report for the region

**AMERICAN GOLDEN- PLOVER**: One American Golden-Plover was at the Cone Playa, Crosby Co 6 Jun (Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson, photographs) – a very late report for the region; one of the few June reports for the area.

**SNOWY PLOVER**: One-6 Snowy Plovers were at Truscott Brine Lake, Know Co 7-18 Jul (Bradley Banner, Scotty Lofland) and 3-6 Snowy Plovers were at Winchester Lake, Haskell Co 8-17 Jul (Bradley Banner, Scotty Lofland) – some somewhat out of range reports for summer in the region?

**STILT SANDPIPER**: One Stilt Sandpiper was found near Lorenzo, Crosby Co 14 Jun (Manuel De Leon) – a rather late report for a presumably north-bound bird.

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER**: Four Solitary Sandpipers were seen near Dumont, Cottle Co 7 Jul (Scotty Lofland) – presumably a very early report of south-bound birds.

BLACK TERN: One Black Tern was at White River Lake, Crosby Co 3 Jun (Mark Lockwood) – a rather late report.

LEAST TERN: One Least Tern was at White River Lake, Crosby Co 3 Jun (Mark Lockwood, photographs) – a rather late report of an always noteworthy species in the region.

BROWN PELICAN: One immature Brown Pelican was at Ransom Lake, Lubbock Co 27 Jun-20 Jul (Sheri Anderson, Jim Crites, multiple observers, photographs) – accidental to the region; a very early date for a first year bird to wander into the area.

LEAST BITTERN: One Least Bittern was at Lake Six, Lubbock Co 12 Jun-31 Jul (Anthony Hewetson, Bobby Schat, multiple observers, photographs) – the species is reported at this particular site roughly 50% of our summers and it is the only site in the region where breeding has been documented recently.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: 154-226 Black-crowned Night Herons gathered at the Slaton Rookery/Roost, Lubbock Co 12-13 Jul (Angelina Zappia, Glenda Kelly) – remarkably high numbers for any single site in the region.

CATTLE EGRET: 2472-2908 Cattle Egrets gathered at the Slaton Rookery/Roost, Lubbock Co 12-15 Jul (Angelina Zappia, Anthony Hewetson, multiple observers) – remarkably high numbers for any single site in the region.

COOPER'S HAWK: One Cooper's Hawk was seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 18 Jun (Jim Crites), one Cooper's Hawk was seen near Afton, Dickens Co 8 Jul (Scotty Lofland), and 2 Cooper's Hawks were at White River Lake, Crosby Co 22 Jul (Mark Lockwood) – summer reports are becoming regular from northern parts of my region; summer reports remain noteworthy in the southern counties.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK: One Common Black-Hawk was seen in Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 19 Jun (Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson, photographs) – accidental to the region but the species did breed at this exact location in the mid-1980s.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 7 Jun (Drew Harvey) – well west of normal summer range in the region. Red-headed Woodpeckers did unusually well, in terms of breeding, at regular sites in Motley, Dickens, and Crosby County – some spillover westward might well be expected.

GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER: One Golden-fronted Woodpecker was found at the Lamb County Sandhills Historical Marker, Lamb Co 20 Jun- well west of normal range in the region.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: One male Red-bellied Woodpecker paired with a Golden-fronted Woodpecker at Dupree Park, Lubbock Co and was present through 15

Jun (Natalie Harryman) – the species hybridize, very rarely, in the region but no young were noted.

DOWNY WOODPECKER: One Downy Woodpecker was seen in Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 19 Jun (Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson) – very unusual this far west in the region during summer proper.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: 2 Great Crested Flycatchers were found at Lake Alan Henry, Garza Co 15 Jul (Stephen Kasper) – well west of the species's usual range in the region.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: One Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at White River Lake, Crosby Co 6 Jun (Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson) - a rather late report for the region.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE: One Eastern Wood Pewee was seen and heard at White River Lake, Crosby Co 3 Jun (Mark Lockwood) and one Eastern Wood Pewee was seen and heard at Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 7 Jun (Drew Harvey) – the species is rarely found in the region; most vocalizing birds in our region have been default Western Wood Pewee.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: 2 Willow Flycatchers were at Clapp Park, Lubbock Co 2 Jun (Peter Keyel) and one Willow Flycatcher was at White River Lake, Crosby Co 30 Jul (Mark Lockwood) – the former report was very late for the region; the latter reports was very early for the region.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: One Vermilion Flycatcher was at Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Randall Co 7 Jun ( Sonja Mendoza) – casual this far north in the region; becoming rather regular just to the south.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: One White-eyed Vireo was seen and heard at White River Lake, Crosby Co 6 Jun (Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson) – accidental to the region, possibly a continuing first county record located earlier in spring by Mark Lockwood.

BELL'S VIREO: One Bell's Vireo was seen below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 4 Jun (Johny Nelson), one-2 Bell's Vireos were seen in Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 1 Jun-31 Jul (Sheri Anderson, Joe Cochran, multiple observers), and one Bell's Vireo was seen at Lake Childress, Childress Co 7 Jul (Scotty Lofland) – continued sightings supporting the westward and northward expansion of this species, as a breeder, into the region.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE: One-2 Carolina Chickadees were seen and heard at White River Lake, Crosby Co 15-26 Jun (Mark Lockwood, Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) – formerly regular this far west into the region; now casual at best.

CEDAR WAXWING: 5 Cedar Waxwings were reported in a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 1 Jun (Jordan Cochran) with 3 Cedar Waxwings persisting at the same site to 4 Jun

(Jordan Cochran) – the end of one of the strongest and most protracted irruptive events for this species in the region.

**BROWN THRASHER:** One Brown Thrasher was at the Sundown Golf Course, Hockley Co 1 Jul (John Berner, Drew Dickert) – very rare, close to accidental, this far west in our region.

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD:** 2-4 pairs bred in Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 1 Jun-31 Jul with at least two successful nests (Jim Crites, Joe Cochran, multiple observers, photographs) – well west of the species usual breeding range in the range; this site, however, was a historical location for the species.

**HERMIT THRUSH:** One Hermit Thrush was seen in a Lubbock yard, Lubbock Co 3-5 Jun (Jordan Cochran) – a near record late date for the species as a spring migrant through the region.

**PINE SISKIN:** 2 Pine Siskins were at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Randall Co 10 Jun (Michael Meves), one Pine Siskin was found in Amarillo, Potter Co 11 Jun (James Hamous), one Pine Siskin was at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Randall Co 13 Jun (Matt Haberkorn), and one Pine Siskin was seen near Quanah, Hardeman Co 15 Jun (John Pike) – the end of a remarkably strong and remarkably protracted irruptive event for this species throughout the region.

**CHIPPING SPARROW:** One Chipping Sparrow was seen near Lorenzo, Crosby Co 3 Jun (Mark Lockwood) – a rather late report for the region.

**FIELD SPARROW:** Up to 17 Field Sparrows were reported at White River Lake, Crosby Co 1 Jun-31 July (Mark Lockwood, multiple observers, photographs) – this isolated breeding ‘colony’ continues strong.

**DARK-EYED JUNCO:** One Dark-eyed Junco was seen near Follett, Lipscomb Co 6 Jun (Barrett Pierce) – another rather late songbird report for the region.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** Up to 31 Yellow-breasted Chats at White River Lake, Crosby Co 1 Jun-31 Jul (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson, multiple observers), one Yellow-breasted Chat was at Roaring Springs, Motley Co 7 Jul (Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson), and 2 Yellow-breasted Chats were below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 25 Jul (Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson) – birds continue to breed at the largest ‘colony’ in the region as well as outlying sites that support favorable habitat in wet years.

**BRONZED COWBIRD:** One-2 Bronzed Cowbirds were at Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Randall Co 4-18 Jul (Doug Smith, Sue Smith, Vicki Wilmarth, photographs) – while regularly reported further to the south, these birds are from the northern edge of the species’ expansion into the region.

OVENBIRD: One Ovenbird was found below Lake Six, Lubbock Co 2 Jun (Jim Crites, Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson, photographs) – the second latest date – on record – for the entire region; yet another late north-bound migrant.

YELLOW WARBLER: One Yellow Warbler was seen at Wayland Baptist University, Hale Co 8 Jun (Niler Pyeatt) – a rather late report.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: One Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Clapp Park, Lubbock Co 2 Jun (Joe Cochran) and 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers were at Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 13 Jun (Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson, photographs) – very late reports for this species in the region.

SUMMER TANAGER: One to two pairs of Summer Tanagers were in Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 1 Jun-31 Jul (Sheri Anderson, Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) and up to 3 Summer Tanagers (2 females, 1 male) were at White River Lake, Crosby Co 26 Jun (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson) – a very good season for the species in the region with reported birds in habitat that has supported breeding in the past (Crosby County) and could support breeding now (Lubbock County).

PYRRHULOXIA: One Pyrrhuloxia was seen near Childress, Childress Co 7 Jul (Scotty Lofland) – rather far north in the region for a summering bird.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: One Black-headed Grosbeak was reported from Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Randall 29 Jun (Dee Susong) – a very unusual dead mid-summer report for the species in the region.

LAZULI BUNTING: One Lazuli Bunting was at White River Lake, Crosby Co 15 Jun (Mark Lockwood) – a very unusual summer report for the region.

LAZULI x INDIGO BUNTING: An apparent hybrid of these two species was found at White River Lake, Crosby Co 26 Jun (Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson, photographs) – these species have, apparently, hybridized in Texas before but I believe this is the first report for my region.

INDIGO BUNTING: Up to 13 Indigo Buntings were at White River Lake, Crosby Co 1 Jun-31 Jul (Mark Lockwood, multiple observers) and one adult female Indigo Bunting was at Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock Co 27 Jun (Sheri Anderson, Anthony Hewetson) – the former site is the best breeding location for the species in the region; the latter site has supported breeding in the past.

Cited observers: Sheri Anderson, Bradley Banner, John Berner, Joe Cochran, Jordan Cochran, Bruce Cramer, Jim Crites, Manuel De Leon, Drew Dickert, Matt Haberkorn, James Hamous, Natalie Harryman, Drew Harvey, Anthony Hewetson, Kelly Himmel, Stephen Kasper, Glenda Kelly, Peter Keyel, Mark Lockwood, Scotty Lofland, Sonja Mendoza, Michael Meves, Johny Nelson, Melba Olsen, Barrett Pierce, John Pike, Niler

Pyeatt, Bobby Schat, Doug Smith, Sue Smith, Dee Susong, Vicki Wilmarth, Angelina Zappia.